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GEOGRAPHIC

TRAVELER

November 2014

OUR

30

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SPECIAL 30TH
ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

PLUS: OFF THE WALL IN BERLIN | LOST IN BOTSWANA

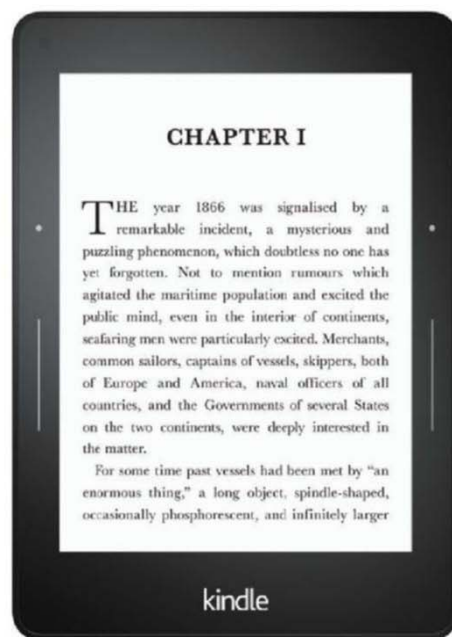
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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TRAVELER

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Sailors on shore leave take in the bright lights of Times Square.

Oh, the Places We'll Go

this november 2000 image of sailors in New York is one of my favorite photos to appear in *Traveler*. It's by the late Theo Westenberger, the first woman to shoot covers for *Newsweek* and *Sports Illustrated*, who worked with me long before I arrived in *Traveler*'s offices in 1998. The shot captures the essence of what I would come to expect in these pages after I received my first subscription issue 30 years ago, in 1984. Billed as "an educational travel resource," *Traveler* broke new ground with its arresting photography, essential travel information, and stories by such celebrated writers as Edward Abbey and Mordecai Richler. In his written introduction, National Geographic Society president and former *National Geographic* editor Gilbert M. Grosvenor said that he wanted *Traveler* to "inspire members to go and experience [destinations]," complementing *National Geographic*, "which has taken its readers to places most of us will never reach." *Traveler* then focused on the U.S., Canada, and Mexico (the first issue included the Grand Canyon, Washington, D.C., and "Wisconsin: Say Cheese!"). Now we go farther afield because that's what you,

our readers, are doing. We still cover home base: This year we featured the Berkshires, Wyoming, American beach towns, and Louisiana. But we also visited China, Ireland, Australia, India, France, Colombia, Portugal, and—in this issue—Botswana.

Over three decades, *Traveler* has undergone dramatic changes to reflect where, how, and why we travel. In 1984, we sought out the sights; now we want unique experiences. We traveled to vacation; now we want to be transformed. We relied on expert advice; now we seek local perspectives, too. And while the magazine adapts to the times, it remains true to Gil Grosvenor's vision. We want you out of the armchair and into the field. In this anniversary issue we celebrate our 30th year through the camera lens, offering a chronicle of changing times. Since 1984 we've shot more than 3.4 million photos and published some 36,000. We've picked our favorites to feature here (see page 56.) Think of them as a travel time capsule, and go to nationalgeographic.com/traveler30 to view still more pictures we love.

Over 30 years, *Traveler* has undergone big changes to reflect where, how, and why we travel. Yet one thing remains true: We want you out of your chair and into the field.

— Keith Bellows

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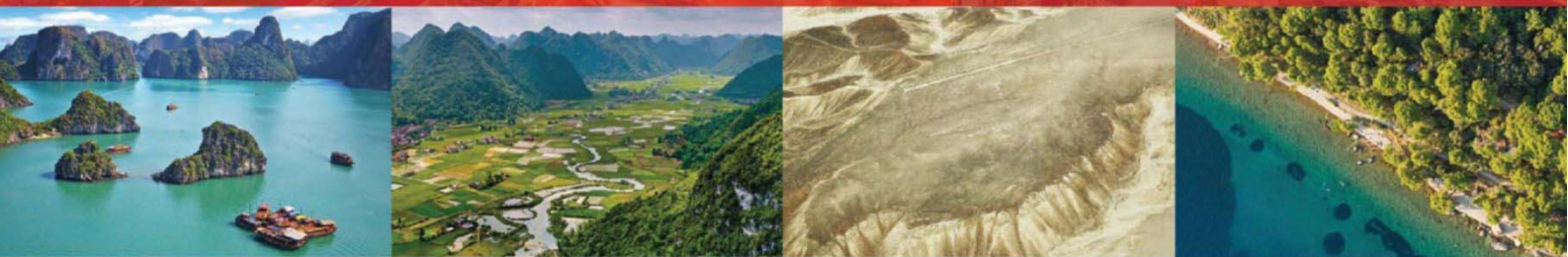
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Monks collect alms in Laos.

“Our best trip inspired by *Traveler* was to Australia and New Zealand in 2009. We used several issues to better understand the cultures and sights—an invaluable tool.”

—LINDA DRIVAS, CLERMONT, FLA.

to continue enjoying our travels, especially through the pages of your magazine.”

ASIA RISING “Our travel history coincides with the 30 years of *Traveler*,” wrote Iris Bing of Pennington, N.J. “Two years ago we traveled to Myanmar and Laos. In Luang Prabang, Laos, we rose before dawn to participate in the alms-giving for local monks—an ancient Buddhist tradition (left). Our boat trip on the Mekong gave us a chance to experience village life.”

‘Round the World in 30 Years

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WHEN THIS MAGAZINE launched in 1984, the world looked much different. And so did travel magazines. Yet some 6,500 of our charter subscribers have remained loyal since the very beginning. After three decades of reading our travel stories, some of those long-timers shared their adventures and insights from over the years:

THE BIG CHEESE “I remember my thrill on receiving that first issue,” wrote Donald Berger of Hollywood, Fla. “Propelled by an article on Wisconsin cheese country, I took off from upstate New York and drove directly to Baumgartner’s Cheese Store and Tavern in Monroe for ‘the best cheese sandwich in the world’ and a beer, and the start of my NGT travels. I have used your articles as guides often, with great results. But some of what I found most useful [the practical listings at the end of each article] has been lost—I suppose for good editorial

and financial reasons, but I wish it were otherwise.”

NO LIMITS Wanderlust knows no age, as James and Martha Fulton of Grants Pass, Oreg., prove. “Our love of travel began in childhood and was enhanced when we drove 14,000 miles through Europe on our honeymoon in 1957. We’ve instilled that same enjoyment in our children and grandchildren,” wrote the octogenarian subscribers.

“The article ‘Bearing North’ in the Autumn 1985 issue inspired one of our favorite trips, though it would be another ten years (October 1995) before the journey materialized. In Churchill, Manitoba, we took advantage of the sights—especially a stunning midnight display of the northern lights outside our hotel. We reserved two days in the Tundra Buggy (right) and encountered several bears each day, as well as ptarmigan and arctic foxes. Now that we are in our 80s, we hope

DANISH MODERN A feature in the November 2013 issue took one reader back—literally. “Your Copenhagen cover story brought me to 1977 when I was a college student living and attending school in that wonderful city,” wrote Barbara T. Armstrong of Milwaukee, Wis. “So in a few days I am heading to Copenhagen and farther north to Norway’s fjords and stylish Stockholm, Sweden. I am certain it will live up to my expectations based on your coverage.”



A buggy for viewing polar bears

OLIVIER MATHYS/EPA/CORBIS (MONKS); PAUL VON BAICH/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE (VEHICLE)

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London Between the Lines

The new *National Geographic London Book of Lists*, written by Tim Jepson and Larry Porges, reveals the quirky customs, culture, and cuisine of England's capital, from the Tower of London's resident polar bears fishing in the Thames to Harrods' early 20th-century embalming service. Here we crown our four favorite London discoveries.



HAT TRICK A family business since 1676, Lock & Co. Hatters is also the world's oldest hat shop and the birthplace of the bowler style. The St. James's Street showroom has topped the pates of notable customers such as Winston Churchill, Prince Charles, and Charlie Chaplin.



GARDEN VARIETY Japanese maple trees, multi-tiered waterfalls, and roaming peacocks calmly coexist in central London's Kyoto Garden, located within Holland Park.

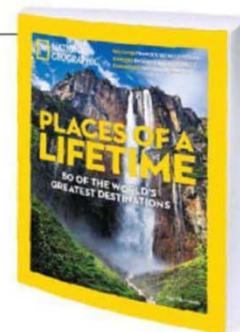


MUSIC MAN In 1764, centuries before the Beatles ever strummed "Love Me Do," eight-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart composed his first symphony at Belgrave's 180 Ebury St.



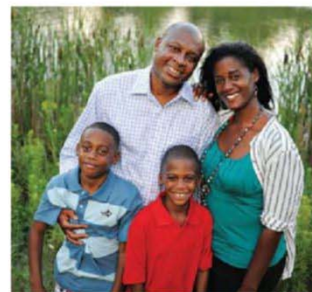
HOME FRIES More than a battered and fried local specialty, fish-and-chips also played a part in World War II—the British used the term as a way to identify fellow soldiers during the D-Day landings.

THE LONDON BOOK OF LISTS HITS SHELVES ON NOVEMBER 4



ON NEWSSTANDS EARTHLY DELIGHTS

With life-changing destinations such as the Seychelles' sunny beaches, Mesa Verde's prehistoric Pueblo ruins, and the Sahara's seemingly infinite dunes, *National Geographic's* new special issue, *Places of a Lifetime*, highlights 50 natural wonders and man-made masterpieces from around the globe. **ON SALE OCTOBER 21**



INTRODUCING Family Affair

Heather Greenwood Davis, *National Geographic Traveler's* new Traveling With Kids writer, wants to put quality family time back on the map. Recognized among our 2012 Travelers of the Year, Greenwood Davis, her husband, and their two sons left their Canadian home in 2011 to spend a year abroad, visiting 29 countries around the world. Follow her adventures on our Intelligent Travel blog, and e-mail any travel-related questions to heather@globetrottingmama.com.

LUDOVIC MAISON/HEMIS/CORBIS (HATS); DAVID BLEEKER-LONDON/LAWY (GARDEN); PHOTO RESEARCHERS/GETTY (MOZART); MARLEEN DANIELS/ HOLLANDSE HOOGTE/REDDUX (FOOD); JO-ANNE

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WHERE TO GO NOW

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Ypres, Belgium 23



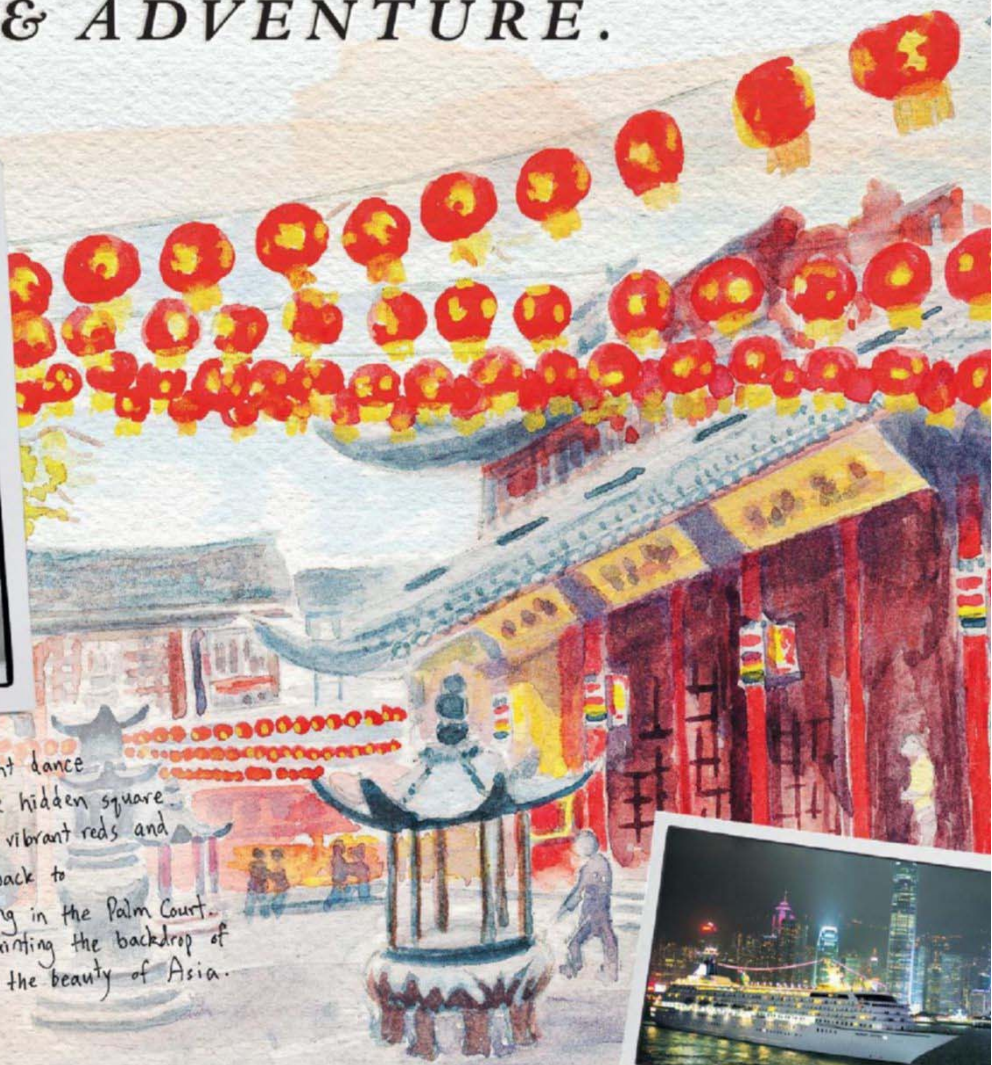
Harnessed climbers
summit Story Bridge
in Brisbane, Australia.

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JOIN US IN REDEFINING THE LINE BETWEEN LUXURY & ADVENTURE.



As the sun set, we watched the light dance through the ornate paper lanterns of the hidden square. I could've stood there forever, amongst the vibrant reds and ancient temples. Still, I was eager to get back to the ship for hand-crafted cocktails and dancing in the Palm Court. With panoramic seascapes and city splendor painting the backdrop of our every step, I found myself captivated by the beauty of Asia.



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Populated with pools, restaurants, and parks, South Bank is Brisbane's latest watering hole.



Brisbane Makes a Splash Down **Under**

IN BRISBANE'S PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY urban center, the cackle of a kookaburra is more common than a car horn. But don't let the subtropical city's laid-back impression fool you. The G20 chose the jacaranda-scented metropolis as host of the November 2014 summit, and *Lonely Planet* recently named it Australia's Hippest City. **WALK THIS WAY** Explore the newly renovated 20-mile Riverwalk along the serpentine Brisbane River on foot or bike-share wheels. Path highlights include the Queensland Art Gallery, the Gallery of Modern Art, and the restaurant precinct at Eagle Street Pier, where you can take in the view of Story Bridge with Aussie-inspired tapas on the open-air deck of Chef Matt Moran's Riverbar. **PARK IT HERE** Kick back like a local at South Bank Parklands. The lush, 42-acre site of the 1988 World Expo now hosts outdoor movies and concerts, with public grills and a swimming lagoon. **KOALA HUGS** Roma Street Parklands offer parrot and possum sightings, but for the full Aussie experience, don't miss the historic Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary for some marsupial face time. —DIANE SELKIRK

ATLAS

Brisbane,
Australia



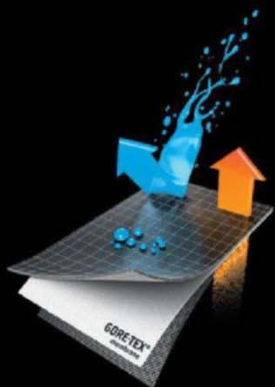
Brisbane is also known as **BrisVegas** and by its indigenous name, **Mian-Jin** ("place shaped as a spike").

NORBERT EISELE-HEIN/AWL IMAGES; INTERNATIONAL MAPPING

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Laser peel: The caryatids sparkle in Athens's Acropolis Museum.

Marbled Maidens Strike a Pose

THE CARYATIDS, A CLIQUE OF STATUESQUE LADIES that once supported the roof of the Acropolis's Erechtheion, stand more beautiful than ever after a three-year makeover. The ancient treasures were restored using technology developed by the Acropolis Museum in Athens. Working on-site, scientists applied infrared and ultraviolet lasers to peel off layers of grime without damaging the caryatids' intricate hairstyles and elegantly draped attire. **RADIANT RELICS** Through digital reconstructions based on 3-D scanning, scientists also revealed how the Parthenon frieze originally looked: decorated with copper attachments and pigmented with lapis and cinnabar. The multicolored relief—found in the Acropolis compound—depicts a procession honoring Athena, the patron goddess of the Greek capital. **EARLY BIRDS** The museum restaurant serves breakfast with a Greek flair: iced tea with saffron, lemon, and spearmint and pancakes topped with grape molasses and tahini. From the terrace, you can almost reach out and touch the Parthenon. —RACHEL HOWARD

ATLAS

Athens, Greece



Legend holds that after British ambassador Lord Elgin carted off a caryatid, the other five could be heard lamenting their lost sister.

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Bicyclists along South Korea's Nakdong River

Revolutionary Roads in South Korea

BICYCLES HAVE LONG BEEN the quickest way to navigate the traffic-choked streets of Seoul. But far from a last resort, cycling has become a national pastime throughout South Korea. Since 2010, the country has built more than 1,000 miles of paved cycling routes and plans to create a network of paths along its four main rivers. **REINVENTING THE WHEEL** Pedal pushers can take in a varied landscape—roughly 70 percent of this nation consists of forest, rivers, lakes, and mountains—as well as experience some of the world's most advanced cycling infrastructure. Bike-only highways tunnel through mountains and over rivers; bike repair shops, restrooms, and picnic sites line the paths; and special traffic lights assist urban crossings. **COURSE OF ACTION** On a 37-mile stretch of the Nakdong River Bike Path, cyclists pass the Sangju Bicycle Museum, a Confucian school founded in 1606, and Gyeongcheondae Terrace, a rock cliff prized for its view of the Nakdong. Finally, at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Andong Hahoe Folk Village, weary riders can recover in a *minbak* (fire-heated inn). —JAYME MOYE

ATLAS

South Korea



One of South Korea's 3,358 islands, Jeju claims the world's longest lava tube and is renowned for its female deep-sea divers.



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A regal angelfish on a reef in the Pacific Remote Islands

The South Pacific Sings a New Tune

NOTORIOUS AS THE VICINITY from which Amelia Earhart made her final distress calls, the equatorial Pacific between Hawaii and Fiji is becoming a little safer—at least for marine life. President Obama’s proposal to add a new protected area larger than the size of Alaska to the existing Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM) would make it the world’s largest sanctuary on land or sea. The seven volcanic reef atolls and islands of the PRIMNM remain uninhabited and—luckily for the endangered sea turtles, rare melon-headed whales, and pristine corals—visited only by permit. **GROUP MENTALITY** The neighboring isles of Palau, Kiribati, and the Cooks will also enlarge protected areas around their shores, totaling, along with the expanded PRIMNM site, reserves larger than Greenland. **HOW TO EXPLORE** The Nature Conservancy regulates public access to Palmyra Atoll, and underwater explorers can scuba dive amid unparalleled populations of tropical fish and sharks at Palau’s Blue Holes and Blue Corner. —MELISSA COLEMAN

ATLAS

Pacific Remote Islands, U.S.A.



The international date line bisects the South Pacific: Kiribati will ring in the new year a day before neighboring islands.

JAMES MARAGOS/USFWS; INTERNATIONAL MAPPING



Artillery shells line the shelves at a World War I museum near Ypres, Belgium.

Flanders Stands at Attention

A HUNDRED YEARS have passed since the outbreak of World War I, a milestone vividly felt in the western Belgian town of Ypres, which endured some of the conflict's fiercest fighting. On Armistice Day (November 11), thousands will crowd the streets, monuments, and cemeteries of this textile town turned shrine to the fallen. **TAPPED OUT** Gather under the Menin Gate, a memorial to the missing inscribed with nearly 60,000 names, where buglers have played "Last Post" almost every night since 1928. The November 11 ceremony here will also air on a big screen in the Market Square. **FLOWER POWER** Poppies as a symbol of remembrance grew from "In Flanders Fields," a poem penned by Lt. Col. John McCrae near Ypres. At the In Flanders Fields Museum, microchipped poppy bracelets bring Great War heroes to life, including frontline nurse Nellie Spindler, the only woman buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. **SCARLET FEVER** At the Poppy Parade, partakers carry petals from St. George's Memorial Church to the Menin Gate, where they are scattered from the rooftop. —KIMBERLEY LOVATO

ATLAS

Ypres, Belgium



Besides poppies, Belgium blooms with tulips, which arrived in Antwerp in 1562—three decades before the bulbs made it to Holland.



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NAVIGATING THE GLOBE

SMART TRAVELER



Modernized railway
hotels, this one in London

PAGE 32



Singapore's Helix Bridge spans Marina Bay.

MY CITY

The Siren Song of Singapore

TRUE TASTES BEYOND THE GLITZY SKYSCRAPERS By CHERYL LU-LIEN TAN

EVEN IN THE most sweltering months of my Singaporean girlhood, the outdoors called to me. I'd clamber onto a bus, flash my school bus card, hope for a window seat and perhaps a whiff of a breeze, and settle in for the stuffy ride east.

Densely packed apartment buildings and car-clogged streets would gradually give way to lush trees and dusty squat row houses. The destination: Changi Village, a somnolent neighborhood perched on the far northeastern shores of the island. Rustling palm trees lulled me into a trance during walks in one of Singapore's oldest coastal parks. From the jetty,

ATLAS

Singapore

Singapore's national anthem is printed in micro-text on the back of the \$1,000 banknote.

I could sometimes see the morning fishermen and *kelongs* (traditional fisheries on stilts) out in the Strait of Malacca, the waterway that slices between Singapore and Indonesia.

Though far from the city-state center, Changi Village still has a faithful local following. Athletic types come for the windsurfing and kayaking. The hungry head for breakfast at International Nasi Lemak, a Malay food stall selling fragrant plates of coconut rice paired with turmeric-coated fried chicken or fish, fried egg, *sambal* sauce, and crispy fried anchovies. My reason for visiting remains the same as ever: In all my years,

I've not come across a better spot for a good sit and a hard think.

This, to me, is the true Singapore. The country of my birth may be known as a fast-paced metropolis of 5.3 million with a gleaming modern skyline, buzzing shopping districts, casinos, vibrant nightclubs, and futuristic parks. But the Singapore I treasure is more veiled. It's a place where the old is celebrated and cherished—and it's not hard to find if you know where to look.

Along Singapore's once sleepy, now trendy east coast, Starbucks and gastropubs have nudged out decades-old vendors selling local

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WHAT'S HOT IN SINGAPORE



ISLAND GETAWAY

Get a sense of traditional *kampong* (village) life on Pulau Ubin, a small island (and national park) that makes a perfect day-trip for hikers and bikers. Count green lizards, scratch rubber trees, and take in Strait of Malacca views.

BEST BUZZ

Classic *kopitiams* (coffee shops) are feeling the heat from upstart cafés like Chye Seng Huat Hardware, which offers cupping classes and crafty brews such as “Nitro,” a malty draft coffee served cold.



CULTURE CLUB

The Peranakan Museum provides insight into the cultural heritage of the local Peranakan Chinese. Bonus: Fort Canning Park neighbors the museum.

LOCAL LIT

The Singapore Writers Festival (in early November) is Asia's best literary bonanza. Books Actually, a shop in trendy Tiong Bahru, specializes in local poets and writers.



A former convent chapel now anchors CHIJMES, a downtown nightlife and dining complex.

favorites such as *tau kwa pau*, a fried tofu pocket-style sandwich. But one thing hasn't changed since the 1950s: Chin Mee Chin, a cozy coffee shop in a chalk white prewar “shophouse” that's been serving up British and local breakfast classics for almost 70 years—custard puffs, runny soft-boiled eggs doused in white pepper and soy sauce, hot buttered rolls slathered with housemade *kaya* (an eggy coconut jam). The Sundays of my youth were largely spent at the neighboring Holy Family Church—and every week at Mass, all I could think about were the sausage rolls right next door.

Another throwback, in the heart of downtown Singapore and incongruously tucked into a dining and nightlife hub awkwardly named CHIJMES (pronounced “chimes”), has a special meaning for me. I was just nine in 1983 when

my school, the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus, or C.H.I.J., was abruptly moved out on order from the government, which wanted to repurpose the land. Although portions of the convent's property—which spanned an entire city block—were torn down, some parts were preserved.

So when I visit CHIJMES these days, I don't come for the dim sum restaurants or the cocktail bars. I come to relive schoolgirl memories at the 110-year-old Gothic chapel, miraculously saved from demolition and now a popular venue for wedding receptions.

Then there's Samy's. Not far from Orchard Road—Singapore's main shopping drag, which is lined with air-conditioned malls and luxe stores from Gucci to Prada—this cavernous Indian curry joint is housed in a former civil service club nestled in a cluster of old British military barracks. Samy's is one of

the best places to get classic “banana leaf” curry—where waiters spread out a rectangular banana leaf at each diner's place before piling on rice, fiery chicken masala, dal, and more. Afterward, guests simply fold up the leaf for the waiter to toss.

On my most recent return trip to Singapore, I ended my visit with a journey to Tiong Bahru, one of my favorite neighborhoods. This warren of narrow streets lined with low-rise art deco buildings is distinctly 1930s Singapore. The housing estate was informally called Hollywood Flats when it was created, because the architects were inspired by Hollywood films. It was also known as *mei ren wo* (Mandarin for “den of beauties”), as rich men liked installing their mistresses in those fashionable flats.

These days, even though disheveled provision shops have been replaced by boutiques that sell \$50 candles

or salons where men can get waxed, Tiong Bahru still has its authentic quirks.

One of my best friends from high school lives in this neighborhood, and one morning, we decided to meet at Hua Bee Restaurant, a small coffee shop that's been selling *mee pok*, a noodle dish with fish balls and minced meat, since the 1940s. Recently, a local restaurateur planned to take over the space to open yet another addition to Singapore's glitzy dining scene.

However, locals had seen far too much of their history blithely erased, and this time they weren't having it. A (polite) uproar ensued, complete with an active Facebook campaign. The businessman compromised.

In the mornings, our beloved *mee pok* man could continue to serve his thick, fragrant coffee and tea and

noodles. At night, the coffee shop would metamorphose into Bincho, a sleek yakitori joint.

I was skeptical. Could the old and the new truly exist harmoniously in the same space? But my dear friend Jeanette had simply said, "Come, *lah!*"

As I sat down, everything at Hua Bee seemed exactly the same. The tiled floor seemed just as grimy, the marble-topped wooden tables that are the hallmarks of old-school Singaporean coffee shops were still in place. When I lingered a second too long while placing my order, the *mee pok* man gave me the same old evil eye.

There were signs of Bincho, of course—a modern kitchen, counter, and bar stools packed into the back. But the sameness of Hua Bee was reassuring.

Jeanette and I leaned into our familiar old talk, teasing each other over all the things that girls will needle one another about, even if it's been decades since they were 14-year-olds.

By the time our bowls arrived, there was no more talk; we got down to business. At first bite, I knew I needn't have worried. The wide egg noodles—coated with a chili-and-black-vinegar sauce and then tossed with fish balls, fish cakes, peppery minced pork, and crispy cubes of deep-fried lard for extra umami—were as they'd always been: sheer delight by the mouthful.

Brooklyn-based **CHERYL LU-LIEN TAN** is author of the memoir *A Tiger in the Kitchen* and editor of *Singapore Noir*. She's at work on her first novel, set in Singapore.

BREEZY SPEAKEASY

Law-abiding locals throw caution to the wind on weekends at 28 Hong Kong Street, a hidden craft cocktail joint with no sign (make a reservation, then knock on the door).



CHIC SLEEP

Kam Leng Hotel, in up-and-coming enclave Jalan Besar, takes style cues from its historic art deco structure but adds modern touches, such as free Wi-Fi.



NEWEST FOODIE LANE

On Keong Saik Road, a hotbed for young chefs, fancy burgers (below) and bountiful brunches reign at Potato Head Folk, while flavorful vegan dishes rule at Afterglow.

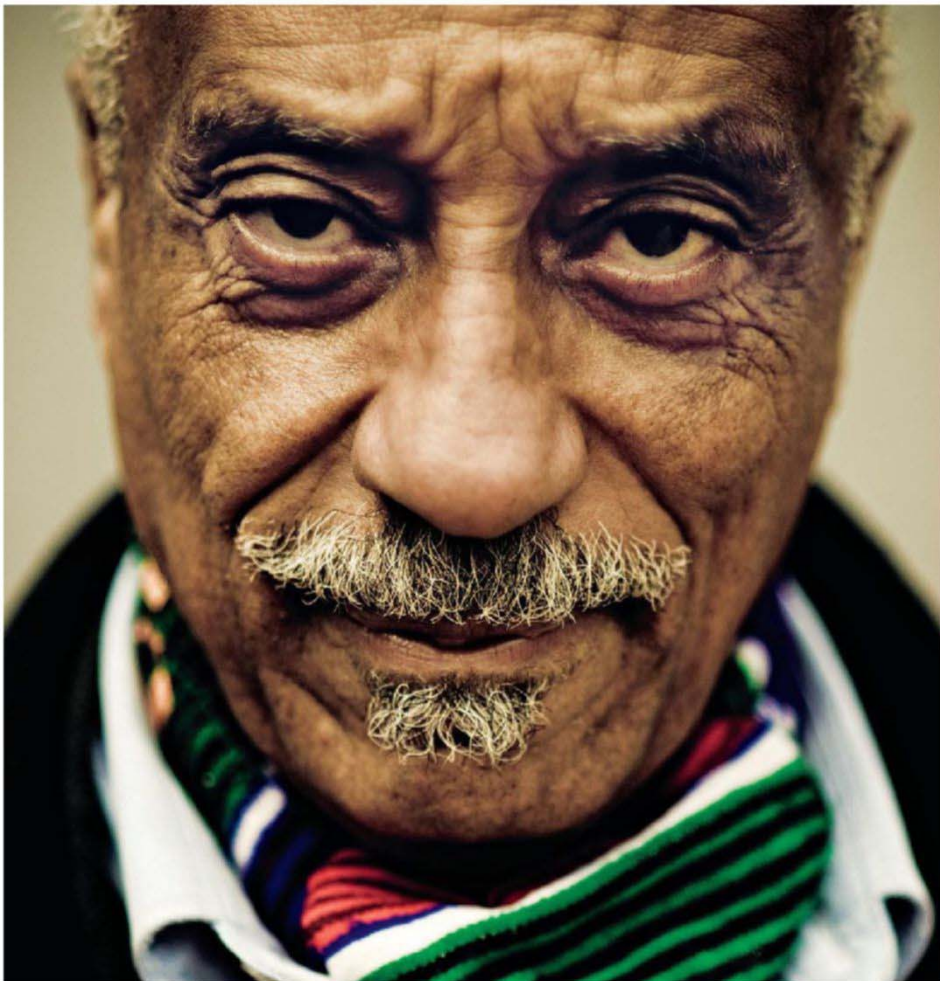


HIPSTER HAJI

In Kampong Glam, colorful murals and graffiti brighten Haji Lane, a narrow street of pocket-size restaurants and clothing boutiques.



Chin Mee Chin coffee shop has been serving traditional breakfasts since the 1950s.



EXPLORER

Traveling Troubadour

RIFFING WITH ETHIOPIA'S JAZZ MASTER By RACHEL B. DOYLE

IN THE 1970S, Ethiopian musician Mulatu Astatke made waves when he introduced a new style of music that layered jazz improvisation with Ethiopian folk rhythms and its traditional five-note scale. Now 70, the father of Ethio-jazz is still mixing things up. Last year, Astatke released *Sketches From Ethiopia*, an experimental album heavy in indigenous instruments, from the harplike kora to the *masinko* lute. He also recently opened African Jazz Village, a music club and school in the Ethiopian capital of

Addis Ababa, where he's training the next generation of African musicians while spurring tourism in his oft overlooked country. Here the jazz legend and nonstop traveler shares part of his story:

A STAR IS BORN I left Ethiopia to study aeronautical engineering in the U.K. I was good in math and physics, but my teachers told me, "Look, Mulatu, if you become a musician, you'd become great." So I went to Boston's Berklee College to study classical music. I was the first African. It was 1958.

Portrait of the artist: Mulatu Astatke, a groundbreaker as well as a globe-trotter

TRIBAL RICHES When friends visit Ethiopia, I say: "Please don't stay in the city. Explore the music, the dance, the countryside." There are excellent drummers in Tigray. In Gondar you'll find shoulder dancing and rich styles of singing. The Gambela region has thumb piano players. In the Oromia region, there's a tribe, the Arsi [with amazing dance traditions]: They can turn their necks around almost 300 degrees.

JAZZ AGE The Derashe from southern Ethiopia have given so much to the development of musical instruments and to modern jazz. They are scientists—they managed to create one type of the diminished scale. Who got there first? Was it these bush people, or was it Debussy or Charlie Parker?

TOURS DE FORCE I go crazy when I see my fans, their love for culture. They sleep on mats, drinking beers all night, singing, dancing. This is what I feed off as an artist. These people could be doctors or painters. You don't know what role they have, but they all come for one beautiful aim—music. I just love my travels.

WORLD WONDERS A couple of summers ago, I was playing at the Fuji Rock Festival in Japan, a two- or three-hour drive from Tokyo. Oh god, to see the mountain, I was just full of bliss. Brazil was another memorable experience; its people are crazy about music. They have the feel and the touch of Africa, and how they approach music, samba, rhythm, instruments is fantastic.

NATIVE PRIDE Ethiopia hasn't been very open to tourists, but our contributions to the world are big. More people should discover the churches of Lalibela. But first we must learn to preserve our heritage. If the country's culture isn't intact, foreign influence could be dangerous. We can learn from tourists while still using our traditional ways.

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CHECKING IN

All Aboard New Railway Hotels



Next to Tokyo Station, the historic Marunouchi Building houses a restored hotel.

THE CALEDONIAN

Though Edinburgh's Princes Street train station shut down nearly 50 years ago, the century-old sandstone hotel built beside it has relaunched after a multimillion-dollar overhaul. Inside the original Edwardian facade are 241 plush rooms—188 of them constructed from former rail platforms and many of them overlooking the city's 12th-century castle. The station's original clock takes center stage in the Peacock Alley bar.

■ EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND; FROM \$292



GREAT NORTHERN

HOTEL The British capital's first railway hotel—an 1854 brick building designed, like the adjacent King's Cross station, by Victorian engineer Lewis Cubitt—has been reimaged after sitting closed for 12 years. It opened in 2013 with 91 rooms, including 21 cozy couchettes inspired by traditional sleeper cars. There's also a restaurant from Gordon Ramsay protégé Mark Sargeant that looks like a modern *Orient Express* carriage.

■ LONDON, ENGLAND; FROM \$239



TOKYO STATION

HOTEL Situated inside the brick-and-steel Taisho-era icon that is the Marunouchi Building, Japan's second oldest hotel is a national treasure. First opened in 1915—one year following the launch of Tokyo Station, the rail hub next door—it now houses 150 vaulted guest rooms and 10 restaurants (a sushi joint and a yakitori bar among them). Recently restored, the property offers unparalleled views of the Imperial Palace.

■ TOKYO, JAPAN; FROM \$309



Note: Rates are the hotels' published prices. Discounts are often available through online travel websites.



STRANGE PLANET

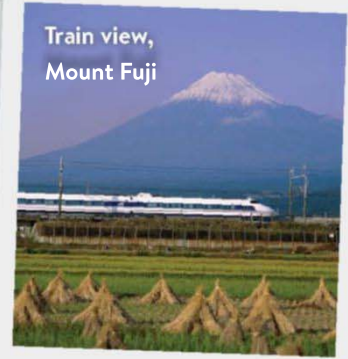
EPIC FAIL A public holiday celebrating failure, United Kingdom's Guy Fawkes Day, November 5, commemorates the botched attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I in 1605. **CRIMINAL INTENT** A company in the Czech capital of Prague has launched "corruption tours" to show where crooked civil servants have wasted taxpayers' money. **PET PEEVE** It is illegal to own only one guinea pig in Switzerland because they are prone to loneliness. **NOT THE SHARPEST TOOL** Preventing mealtime altercations, French King Louis XIV ordered that all dinner knives be ground to a blunt tip. **WILD THING** "Grip," the raven that inspired Edgar Allan Poe, is displayed in a shadow box in the rare book department of the Philadelphia Public Library. **WET PAINT** The Eiffel Tower receives a fresh coat of 60 tons of signature bronze paint every seven years, painted by hand with circular brushes. **TINY DINER** One of the world's smallest eateries, the Holzkechthütt restaurant in Carinthia, Austria, serves just four people at a time in a former lumberjack hut. **LANCE A LOT** In 1962, Maryland made jousting its official state sport, although the modern version challenges riders to spear a series of small suspended rings along an 80-yard course. —Paul Martin

THOMAS LINKEL/ALF/REDUX (ROTUNDA), WALDORF ASTORIA HOTELS & RESORTS (WOMEN), GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL (BUILDING), TOKYO STATION HOTEL (BEDROOM); ROBERT NEUBECKER (ILLUSTRATION)

BOOKSHELF

Autumn's Great Reads

TITLES THAT TAKE YOU FROM INDIA TO EGYPT By DON GEORGE



DISPATCH

TWELVE-HOUR TOUR IN JAPAN

By ANDREW EVANS

I wanted to cross the country in one day. You can do that, thanks to the incredibly fast **BULLET TRAINS** that connect Japan's major cities.

The bullet train looks futuristic but celebrates its 50th birthday this year. Since 2011, it has linked the northernmost city of Aomori, on the main island of Honshu, to the southernmost city of Kagoshima, which is on the island of Kyushu—nearly the distance from New York to Miami.

I left Aomori one morning at 8:28 a.m. Twelve hours later, at 8:14 p.m., my train pulled into Kagoshima. What happened in between was a speedy dream of Japan, a visual rush from bright green rice paddies and old-style Japanese farmhouses to soaring skyscrapers and endless cities.

Throughout the day I sent texts and photographs via Twitter, recounting my version of Japan at 200 miles per hour. What I had not anticipated was that the bullet train would be too fast. I would begin tweeting about one city we were passing, and by the time I'd finished sending it, we would have arrived at a new one. Between Tokyo and Osaka, cities flew by faster than I could keep up with.

So here is my unsolicited slogan for Japan's bullet trains: "Faster than Twitter."

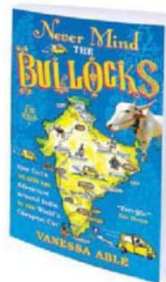
ENGLISH JOURNALIST Vanessa Able drove a Tata Nano, the cheapest car in the world, some 6,200 miles around India from February to May 2010, and writes about it in her sometimes hilarious, sometimes nail-biting memoir *Never Mind the Bullocks*.

Also a bit nerve-racking: Korean-American writer Suki Kim's *Without You, There Is No Us*, a unique perspective on life in North Korea, where she taught for six months in 2011 within the locked compound that is the elite Pyongyang University of Science and Technology. Kim reveals the conditioning that shapes the Hermit Kingdom's future leaders—and the cracks that occasionally open in their cloistered worldviews.

Cairo grabs the tourist spotlight in Egypt but Alexandria was the site of the ancient world's most famous library and lighthouse. *An Alexandria Anthology*, compiled by historian Michael Haag, depicts the evolution of this more than 2,300-year-old city.

In his brilliant *Berlin: Imagine a City*, Rory MacLean writes, "Berlin is a city that is forever in the process of becoming, never being." MacLean presents the stories of 23 seminal characters, from Bertolt Brecht to David Bowie, crafting a human portrait of this capital that marks 25 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall this month (see page 44).

■ FOR MORE BOOK REVIEWS BY DON GEORGE, GO TO INTELLIGENTTRAVEL.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM.



A new memoir travels the colorful state of Rajasthan (above) and around India in a Tata Nano.



WHISTLER

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With ample snow, 16 alpine bowls, and more than 200 trails, you'll understand why Whistler, in Canada's British Columbia, is the ideal winter retreat and one of North America's top ski and snowboard destinations. This world-class resort offers 8,171 acres of skiable terrain, 37 lifts, and a bounty of ski options. Take on impressive steepes like the Couloir Extreme, followed by powder aplenty in Xhiggy's Meadow or Secret Bowl. Or get to Franz's Run early in the morning to cruise through some of the best corduroy and then spend the day bouncing through the 99 acres of terrain parks. Access between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains is quick, and the view on the PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola is unmatched.

UNWIND

In Whistler, there is an après for everything, so there's no need to slow down just because the lifts close. The sunny decks at Dusty's Bar & BBQ, in Whistler's Creekside, are the perfect place to swap ski stories over spirits and rejuvenate, or for even deeper relaxation, head to the Scandinave Spa for rounds of cleansing hydrotherapy. When hunger calls, outstanding casual dining and elegant fare can be found around every corner of Whistler Village. While there, browse charming stores and enticing art galleries on an after-dinner stroll under the twinkling lights. Embrace the local nightlife, whether it be on a club crawl via Tommy Africa's or Maxx Fish or unwinding at a cozy lounge for cocktails by the fire.

EXPLORE

Skiing and snowboarding may headline Whistler's winter activities, but it doesn't stop there. Visit Whistler Olympic Plaza for outdoor skating, a tour of the legacies and monuments of the 2010 Winter games, and spectacular mountain scenery. Or ride the PEAK 2 PEAK for a stunning angle of Whistler's never ending natural beauty. Let Whistler's active essence charm you as you barrel through the wilderness on snowmobile or dog-sled, snowshoe to Lost Lake, ice climb with or without Whistler's expert guides, or zip-line through the snow-covered landscape. Bungee jump 160 feet over the Cheakamus River and get a T-shirt to prove how extreme your vacation was.

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WHISTLER
BRITISH COLUMBIA





Brazilians celebrate the announcement of the Rio Olympics.

PROBLEM SOLVED

Preparing for the Olympics

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Q: I want to go to the Rio Olympics. Can I make reservations now? You're a tad early to book, but not to plan. Most airlines sell tickets 330 days or so in advance—and many tour operators will begin offering packages around the same time. Hotel reservations follow roughly the same schedule. Event tickets should go on sale about a year before the opening ceremonies August 2016. The best place to begin your Olympic journey is Rio's English-language site (www.rio2016.org.br/en), where you can research the venues and schedules. Take your time making a choice. "It's not ideal to lock yourself into something and then realize that there are other events that pique your interest," says Ben Stasiuk, general manager for tour operator Goway Travel. You'll probably save money by booking a package before everyone else catches Olympic fever, but don't expect the savings to be too aggressive. It's also not too early to make sure

NEED HELP?

Editor at Large Christopher Elliott is our consumer advocate and author of *How to Be the World's Smartest Traveler* (National Geographic Books).

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you have a valid passport and can meet Brazil's visa requirements. Oh, and it's definitely not too soon to start learning a little Portuguese. *Boa sorte.*

Q: I'm visiting Denver soon, and I admit I am curious about the new marijuana laws. Let's get this straight: I'm not advocating a mile-high experience in the Mile-High City, but here's what inquisitive travelers should know. Colorado's Amendment 64 allows adults to legally possess up to one ounce of cannabis. Public consumption is illegal, and most hotels do not allow smoking in rooms. Visitors should remember never to light up while driving; you can get pulled over for the equivalent of a DUI under the law. Also beware of eating marijuana-laced food, as it is difficult to know the amounts ingested. Some companies, such as My 420 Tours, offer multiday pot tours around Denver. Owner J. J. Walker says that it books hundreds of packages a month.

TRENDING

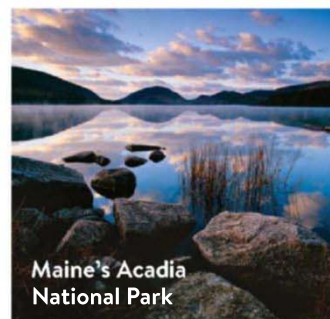
BIRTHDAY WISH FOR OUR PARKS

By COSTAS CHRIST

When I was 16 years old, I went to Yosemite and fell in love with America's national parks, so much so that I now live next to one—Acadia, in Maine. In 2016, the **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE** (NPS) turns 100, and planning for commemorations has already begun. Yellowstone became the world's first national park in 1872, leading the British diplomat James Bryce in 1912 to declare national parks "the best idea America ever had."

Indeed, it was, and is. But celebrations and plaudits aside, look at what we have done to our national treasures. Our parks are plagued with a host of problems caused by, among other things, poor management and budget cuts. According to the National Parks Conservation Association, the annual budget for the NPS constitutes less than one-fifteenth of 1 percent of the federal budget, meaning that American households pay on average just \$2.56 each year, about the cost of a cup of coffee. Yet every dollar spent on the NPS yields some ten dollars in economic activity.

We need to reinvigorate our national parks. Support the National Parks Conservation Association and join one of the many "Friends of..." organizations so that America's best idea can thrive for centuries to come.



Maine's Acadia National Park

LALO DE ALMEIDA/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX (REVELERS), CARR CLIFTON/MINDEN PICTURES/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE (LAKE)

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A kayaker sets off in the Gulf of California.

ADVENTURE 101

Sea Kayaking Baja's Jewels

PADDLE INTO THE WILD By JOHN BRILEY

THEY ARE SCENES from our daydreams: paddling across an indigo lagoon surrounded by porpoises; coming eye to eye with a breaching whale; drifting to sleep on a beach under a dazzle of stars, well fed and soothed by top-shelf tequila. All are common occurrences for sea kayakers in the Gulf of California, off Mexico's Baja California peninsula. "This is one of the best preserved marine ecosystems you will find, and the chance that you'll see a variety of sea life on any given trip is high," says Peter Grubb,

founder of ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, which has guided trips in the area since 1995.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS The first time a whale surfaces next to your kayak, says Grubb, "is like a gift. People get a superclose and often life-changing experience." A variety of whale species, including humpback, fin, and blue, amass in the gulf from January through March, chiefly to calve and mate. The rest of the kayak season features other wildlife, including sea lions and juvenile whale sharks.

ATLAS

Baja California, Mexico



At 760 miles, Baja California is the second longest peninsula on Earth.

BEYOND THE BOAT Entry-level excursions, within the protected waters and islands of the Bahia de Loreto National Park and Isla Espiritu Santo biosphere, provide about two hours of kayaking in the morning and an additional hour in the afternoon. That leaves time for snorkeling, hiking desert arroyos, lolling on the beach, or swimming with sea lions.

PADDLE PREP Kayakers must have at least moderate fitness, but, Grubb says, "we coach people on how to use their core to paddle so their arms don't get tired." You'll need to be able to help carry kayaks—light, 21-foot Seaward fiberglass doubles—up on the beach. The biggest challenges? "Getting people to drink enough water," says Grubb. "And when people on the same trip want to go at different speeds, we often split the group and rendezvous on the beach later."

AN ALFRESCO EXPERIENCE

Most outfitters offer multiday kayak trips suitable for novices (from six to 11 days, starting at \$1,095). To prepare for the trip, Grubb recommends "at least a few hours of kayaking" before arriving in Mexico. Also required: a willingness to camp consecutive nights—sleeping in tents, showering with salt water, and dining outdoors. To be sure, this is soft camping: Most tour-operated kayak adventures are supported by motorized *pangas*, which trail the group at an out-of-earshot distance loaded with comforts including tents, folding chairs, wet suits, and coolers packed with local produce and seafood.

LOW-ANXIETY THRILLS Fear of capsizing and other jitters dissolve quickly thanks to stable kayaks and waters largely shielded from strong winds and surf. What won't fade is the thrill of a self-propelled journey into a magical environment teeming with creatures that show little fear of human interlopers.

KEEP IT WILD

01

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Let's
Go
Places

02

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Prototype shown with options. Production model may vary. Payload includes the weight of occupants, cargo and options; limited by weight distribution. Don't overload your vehicle. See Owner's Manual for weight limits and restrictions. ©2014 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.



The Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall

TRAVELING WITH KIDS

Holiday Fun in the Big Apple

By HEATHER GREENWOOD DAVIS

Q. I'd love to treat my teen daughter to a trip to New York City over the winter holiday season. Suggestions? It's all about location. Stay at a midtown hotel and you'll be well placed to access the must-sees (Times Square, Empire State Building). Then, explore the city with your daughter's age in mind. Book a tour that highlights spots from a favorite TV show, foods she loves (a pizza tour in Little Italy, perhaps?) or seasonal activity (skating the rinks at Rockefeller Center and Central Park). Skip Fifth Avenue and concentrate your spending money on memory-making experiences like Radio City Music Hall's holiday show, a Broadway musical (the TKTS booth in Time Square offers same-day discounted theater tickets; the "Play Express" line for non-musicals is shorter), or souvenirs that relate to your adventure together. Check

GOT A QUESTION?

Heather Greenwood Davis blogs about her family's around-the-world journeys at globetrottingmama.com.

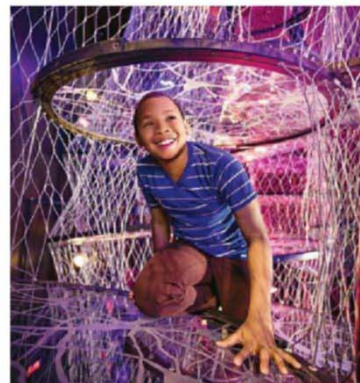
REACH HEATHER:
Twitter: [@greenwooddavis](https://twitter.com/greenwooddavis)

the gift shop at the Cooper Hewitt design museum for one-of-a-kind mementos. Don't leave the city without taking in a great view: The free Staten Island ferry offers a glimpse of Lady Liberty, and a ride up the elevator to the "Top of the Rock" yields a dazzling view of New York City and a chance to snap an iconic holiday photo.

Q. We're planning a trip to Philadelphia. How can I make the museum experience better for our kids? Keep it short and sweet. Pick no more than one museum per day, and aim to highlight one of your child's key interests (Independence Seaport Museum for the boat lover, Penn Museum for Egyptian lore). Inside, stick with one or two exhibits, and explore them at your child's pace. Kid-friendly options abound at Philadelphia museums (gallery tours geared to kids at the Philadelphia Museum of Art,

sleepovers at Penn Museum, and Franklin Institute's "Your Brain" exhibit). Choose attractions that will allow kids to be active participants rather than static observers. Consider options like CityPASS or the Philadelphia Pass, which offer discounts and quick entry to attractions.

Q. We want to celebrate our anniversary in the Caribbean, but with a toddler in tow, is a romantic getaway out of the question? Start with an island setting like Jamaica, Turks and Caicos, or Dominican Republic, where families are a familiar sight and shallow coves allow for splashing at the beach. An all-inclusive resort can provide a balance of romance and family-friendly amenities. Watch for things that could throw a wrinkle into the good times (tap water that's unsafe to drink could make an active toddler's bath time nerve-racking). Look for packages that include child care (Franklyn D. Resort in Jamaica includes a nanny; from January to March it offers a Bring Your Own Grandparents deal), and consider resorts that also have an adults-only area, suggests Corinne McDermott, founder of HaveBabyWillTravel.com. "If you feel confident enough to leave the toddler for a few hours, you can nip away and have some grown-up time right on the property."



A boy climbs through a neural network of the brain at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

JOHN LAMPARSKI/GETTY IMAGES (CAMEL), THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE (CHILD)



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Riviera Maya Musts



Silky sands, lush jungles, tropical colors. Located on the Caribbean coast of the Yucatán Peninsula, in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo, the Riviera Maya stretches along 81 miles of palm-fringed beaches. With the largest coral reef in the Northern Hemisphere for a front yard and a dense rain forest for a back, the Riviera Maya is not to be missed. Read on for a few special must-sees and must-dos.



Stone Temple Mysteries

To visit the archaeological site of Tulum is to travel back more than 500 years and behold the alluring sea from atop a ruin-strewn cliff. The only known Maya compound built along the coast, it boasts more than 60 well-preserved structures within three massive walls. At the beach down below you can swim in the Caribbean while taking in timeless views of Maya history. Spend the night in a bungalow in the nearby eco-chic town of Tulum.

Pay further homage to the ancient Maya by climbing the steep Nohoch Mul temple, at Cobá, the tallest pyramid on the Yucatán Peninsula. Walking in the jungle on routes dating back a thousand years, you'll begin to feel the modern world slip away.

Gateways to the Underworld

Dive into the crystal clear waters of one of the Riviera Maya's many cenotes and experience the mesmerizing beauty of a fragile underwater ecosystem. These sinkholes, or sacred wells as the Maya called them, connect up with the longest underground river system in the world.

On a snorkeling or diving expedition that brings you up close to intricate cavern formations, you'll understand why cenotes such as Gran Cenote and Dos Ojos were considered portals to the gods of the underworld.

Where the Sky Is Born

To the ancient Maya, Sian Ka'an meant "gift from heaven" or "where the sky is born." This earthly paradise is now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve harboring more than 500 bird species and the Muyil archaeological site. Community Tours Sian Ka'an, a nonprofit Maya co-op program, can help you enjoy the heavenly "gift" on a kayak or birding tour, a boat ride to watch the majestic sunset, or a visit to a local Maya community.

Time for some sophisticated fun? How about a stroll down Fifth Avenue, Riviera Maya style? In the lively beachside city of Playa del Carmen you have menus within menus of entertainment choices: vibrant nightlife, boutique shopping, and elegant and casual dining.

Visit rivieramaya.com to start planning your trip.

Local Happenings

Festival of Life and Death

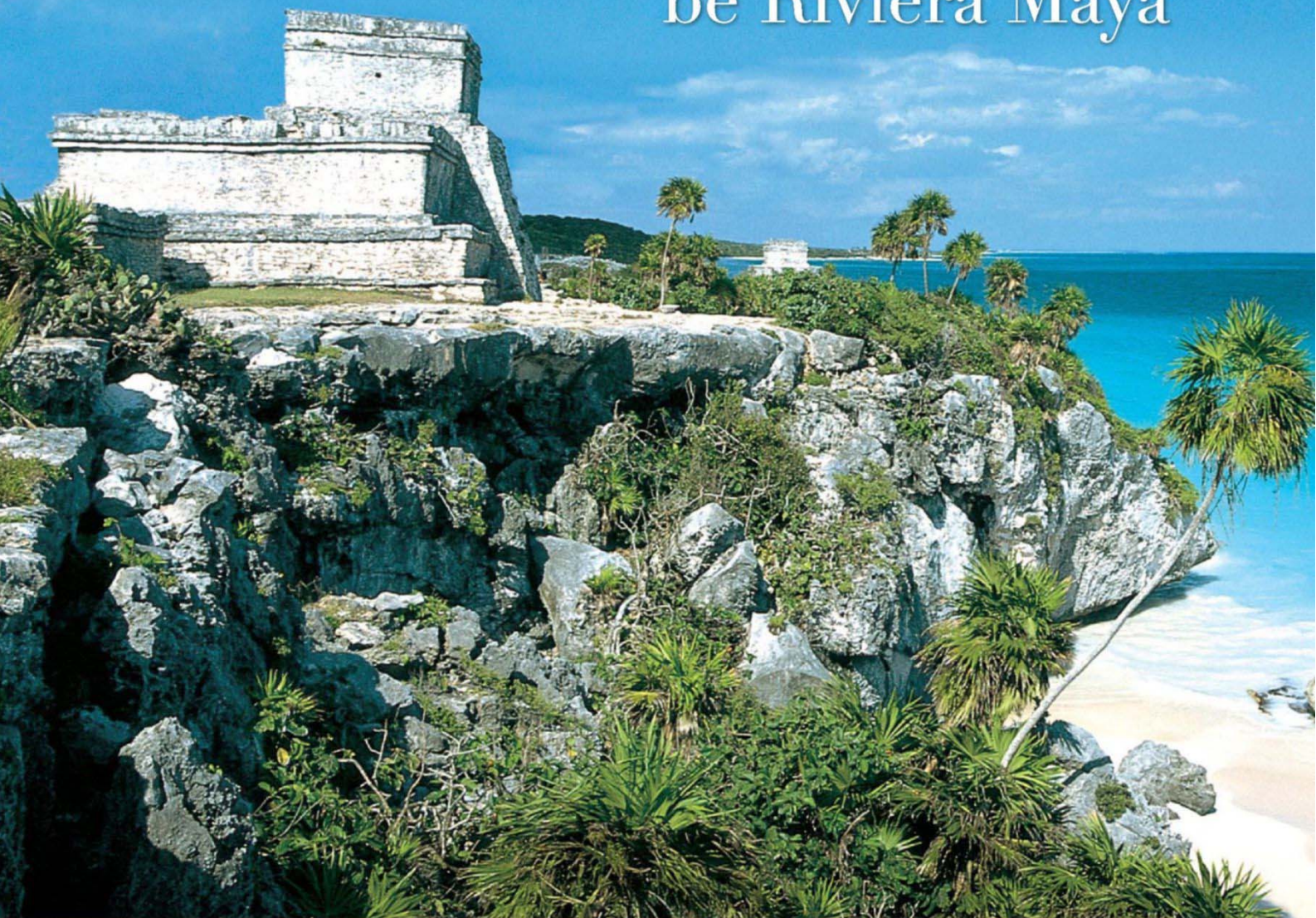
Experience the Hanal Pixán ("food for the souls") ritual, regional cuisine, crafts, arts exhibitions, theater, dance, and gala concerts, all honoring the traditions of the Día de los Muertos celebration. October 30-November 2. festivaldevidaymuerte.com

Riviera Maya Jazz Festival

Enjoy three unforgettable nights of music in one of Mexico's most stunning destinations. Showcasing some of the greatest names in jazz, this event is one of the top jazz festivals in the world. And it's free! Concerts take place in Playa del Carmen November 27-29. rivieramayajazzfestival.com

be amazed

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Fashionably anarchic, a woman celebrates May Day in East Berlin. Visitors peer through a remnant of the Berlin Wall (opposite), 25 years after its fall.

How many lives can one city have? Quite a few if the city is Berlin. Royal capital, imperial seat, economic powerhouse, center of enlightenment...before becoming a synonym for decadence in the 1920s and '30s, then a Nazi stronghold. Bombed, invaded, occupied in World War II. Suddenly divided in 1949, exuberantly reunited in 1989, and now again the capital of a unified Germany. This year marks a quarter century since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and Berlin continues to boom amid the

reminders of its extraordinary past—a complex, sometimes dark, history it is intent on neither forgetting nor denying.

I was a boy the first time I saw the Wall, a 96-mile barrier erected in the 1960s by the Communist German Democratic Republic (GDR) to isolate non-Communist West Berlin and keep GDR residents from defecting. My family lived in Poland intermittently in the 1980s while my professor mother researched its political system. Periodically we'd make the long drive to West Berlin for provisions. Each time that the Wall, a ribbon of reinforced concrete topped with barbed wire, would come into view, my body would tense. We'd join the lines of waiting cars at closely guarded Checkpoint Charlie, the main crossing point for Americans. Stone-faced guards in grayish uniforms would peer

by Germany's passion for classical music to move there. Folks like us, flocking here from other parts of Germany and from around the world, have helped cement Berlin's reputation as a capital of creative ferment. We're even contributing to a new, multicultural German future. My wife and I had a baby Berliner in February—and were not surprised to find the hospital's maternity ward reflecting the city's diversity. We heard lots of German, but also English, Polish, French, Turkish.

I'm the first to admit there are parts of the city I don't know as well as I'd like. But this is not an easy city to fathom.

"Berlin has no real center, just neighborhoods," says Berliner Ulrike Poppe. "And each is very different."

So I headed out to four neighborhoods to find Berliners who would show me my adopted city through their eyes, to deepen my understanding of how Berlin has changed in the 25 years since the Wall tumbled, to find vanishing vestiges of the Cold War—and to see what may be in store here in the future.



into our car, study our faces. The tension was palpable. When they waved us through, I'd watch in awe as the bright colors and lights on the Western side rushed toward us—neon signs on shop-lined Kurfürstendamm, supermarkets full of produce, streets filled with traffic—all a vivid contrast to the monotone, slow-moving cityscapes of Poland and East Germany. Those memories made West Berlin synonymous with sophistication, excitement, and abundance.

In 2005, I moved to the city, in part for the avant-garde art and music scene but also to live in a place where centuries of history were informing a new urban vision. I learned German, then met, and married, an American opera singer who'd been compelled

PRENZLAUER BERG

FADED SPLENDOR REVIVED

More than any other neighborhood in Berlin, Prenzlauer Berg has transformed itself since the fall of the Wall. As I stand in Kollwitzplatz, a shady square today lined with restaurants and occupied twice a week by an organic farmers market, I find it almost impossible to imagine the soot-coated place this was when it sat in the middle of Communist East Berlin. Paradoxically, it would be the soot—a thick mix of coal dust and flaking plaster—that would help protect some of the best architecture in the city.

Prenzlauer Berg's elegant century-old cobblestoned streets and apartment buildings—scores of which have been designated as historic—earn it comparisons to Paris.

Ulrike Poppe moved here in 1971 as a wide-eyed 18-year-old from the quiet East German countryside and now lives in a book-lined apartment just off Kollwitzplatz. She recalls a very different cityscape.

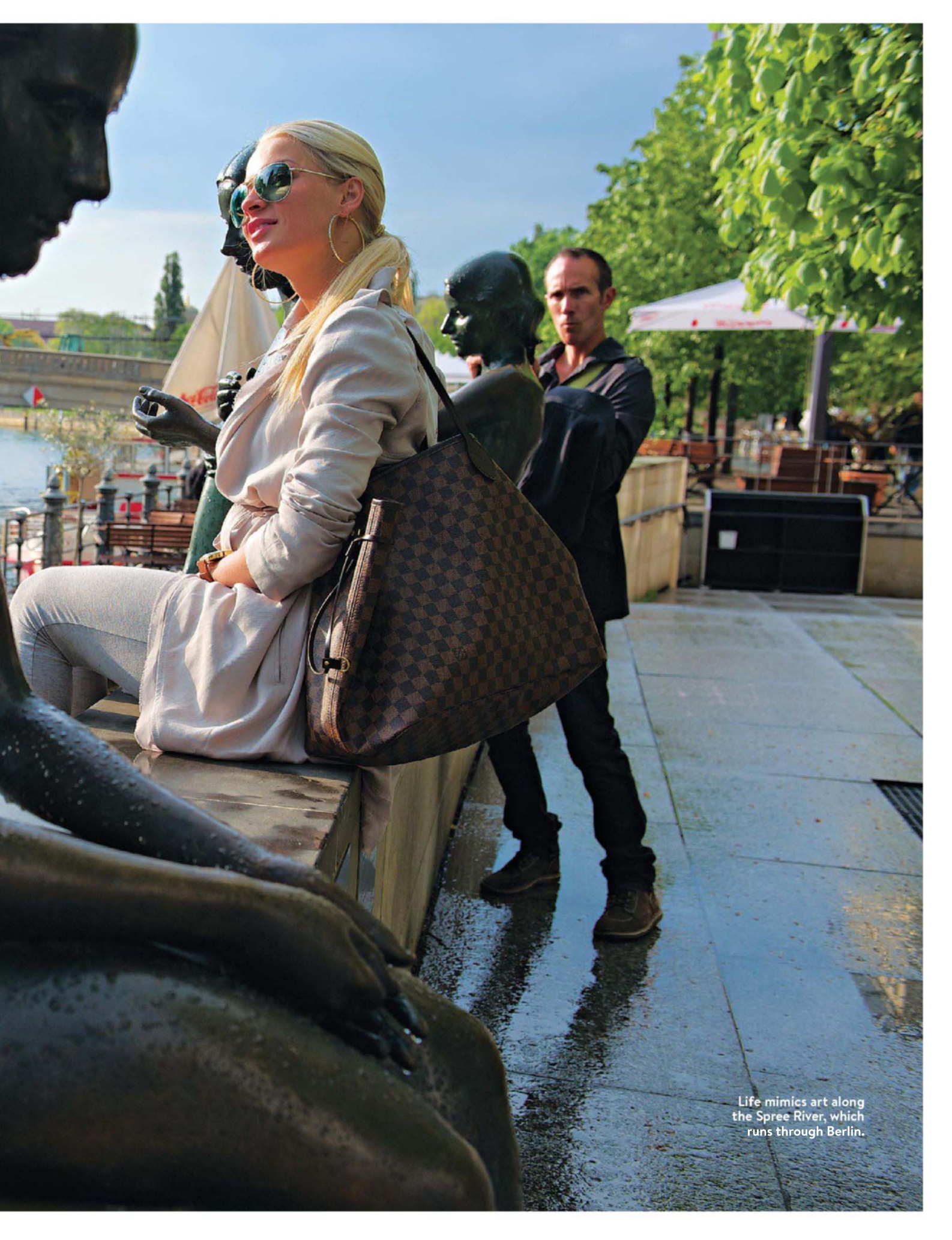
"Everything was falling apart, if not from war damage, from neglect." Bullet holes dating to World War II scarred crumbling facades. Families shared toilets on rickety staircase landings. Rats swarmed back courtyards.

Another local, Martin Fissel, a computer programmer in



Italian-themed fare fills Casa I storia, or "history house," a restaurant in Prenzlauer Berg. The neighborhood is popular for its shopping (opposite).





Life mimics art along the Spree River, which runs through Berlin.

his 40s who was born a few blocks away, has his own recollections. “I remember ice blocks in front of the shops; there was no refrigeration,” he tells me over beers one night.

In the 1980s, troublemakers—including Poppe, who founded a group called Women for Peace in 1982 and spent weeks in jail—couldn’t get housing in new apartments on the outskirts. So they chose to fend for themselves in abandoned buildings in Prenzlauer Berg under the eye of the Stasi, the secret police.

“They harassed me for years,” she says, pausing on the sidewalk to fish out a cigarette. “I rarely smoke, but when I start talking about those times I need to.”

As we pass Tukadu, a bead store just off Kollwitzplatz with kaleidoscopic window displays, a smile returns to her face.

“Prenzlauer Berg was where people who wanted to be free—artists, thinkers—could find a place,” she says. “Most of the opposition to the German Democratic Republic lived here.”

When the GDR collapsed, this alternative haven became a boomtown. Investors rushed in to renovate prewar buildings. Fashion labels, edgy stores, and art-filled restaurants—such as Casa Iatoria, whose Sunday brunch and deep cups of milky coffee remain my favorite cure for the aftereffects of a late Saturday night—moved into abandoned stores. Kastanienallee, an avenue that ascends through the heart of the neighborhood and once skirted the Wall, earned the nickname Macchiato Mile.

“Now there are so many cafés,” Poppe says as we stroll under chestnut trees, “and something new always is brewing.”

As we walk, I take note of a bilingual kindergarten, organic grocery stores, and a burrito joint named Maria Bonita, a hole-in-the-wall run by American expats, with eight stools, fuchsia-colored walls, homemade tortillas, and the best guacamole east of the Americas. St. George’s, an English-language bookshop on nearby Wörther Strasse, anchors an English-speaking expat community. Its collection of books on the history of Berlin is unparalleled (in English, anyway), and after-hours musical performances and readings draw eager audiences. On balmy summer nights, though, it can’t compete with a landmark just six blocks away: the Prater beer garden, said to be Berlin’s oldest, where neighborhood stalwarts and newcomers have gathered over frothy glasses of *hefeweizen* since the 1800s.

It’s dark as we return to Kollwitzplatz. Poppe steers me toward a modernist bronze statue. “Käthe Kollwitz,” she says, naming the notable expressionist artist who lived on Kollwitzplatz from the 1890s to the 1940s and inspired its name. I ask Poppe if Prenzlauer Berg still feels like home. Looking around, she nods.

“Kollwitzplatz is an area for the rich now, and I hear more English than German on the streets,” she answers. “But I would never leave.”

NEUKÖLLN

MIXING THINGS UP IN A MIXED NEIGHBORHOOD

Step into Azzam, a shawarma restaurant in Neukölln, and German is the last thing you’ll hear. “Many patrons are students, speaking every language you can imagine,” owner Mohamad Azzam tells me during the lunch rush, the smell of grilling chicken skewers filling the air. “These days I’m as likely to hear ‘bonjour’ or ‘shalom’ as ‘inshallah.’”

This popular Palestinian eatery, where black tea flows freely and the pita is plentiful, opened ten years ago in what for centuries has been Berlin’s immigrant district. Part of the West Berlin quadrant administered by the U.S. after World War II, Neukölln attracted guest workers from Turkey and elsewhere with factories that remained open during the first years of the Cold War. In 1961, however, the Wall went up on its eastern edge, and the bottom fell out of the local economy. Neukölln soon degenerated into one of Germany’s most notorious ghettos.

“The world ended here,” says Andreas Altenhof, artistic director of the state-funded Neuköllner Opera.

When I moved to the city nine years ago, I would have hesitated to bring a woman to the neighborhood after dark. But after a friend tells me he’s performing in the opera house’s piano bar, my wife and I decide to attend. We get a table and order two *Eisshokolade*—German ice-cream sundaes—as our friend steps on stage. His show is a mash-up of pop songs interspersed with readings of suicide notes. I feel uncomfortable, but the Neukölln crowd, ever open to the unorthodox, applauds loudly.

A few days later, I meet Altenhof for tea in the now quiet opera house bar and ask for his take on the area’s many changes.

“Neukölln,” he explains, “has drawn immigrants since the 1800s, when thousands of hard-working Bohemians settled here. Richardplatz still feels like a Czech village, with its brick buildings and converted stables.” These include the centuries-old blacksmith shop Schmiede am Richardplatz, in the square’s center. The clang of hammer on anvil is ringing out as workers craft cast-iron candelabras and other objects by hand.

After the Wall came down, Altenhof says, half of Neukölln’s residents found themselves unemployed or on welfare. Nearly a third were Turkish or Arab immigrants. Many Berliners referred to the area as “Kleine Istanbul”—“little Istanbul”—and steered clear. Now, transformation has gripped Neukölln, in part thanks to the closing in 2008 of Berlin’s main airport, Tempelhof, after 80 years of operation. The city converted its thousand acres into a green space in the heart of Berlin, though keeping the landing strips. I had boarded flights at the Nazi-era terminal, still one of the largest buildings in Germany (and now an events space). These days I bank my bike into the park and glide along the 3.5 miles of traffic-free runways alongside Rollerbladers, runners, and skateboarders. On windy afternoons, kites clot the sky, rising on the fragrant smoke of hundreds of barbecue grills.

Neukölln’s proximity to the park, and to the new Berlin Brandenburg International airport expected to open in 2016, has sparked demand for its apartments. Adding to the cachet: a bevy of new restaurants and clubs, such as Sameheads, a bar, club, and boutique next to a halal butcher. Run by three British brothers, decorated with old TVs and a portrait of Andy Warhol (hung high on a wall like a patron saint), and known for its DJ sets and costume parties, it’s a magnet for an eclectic clientele.

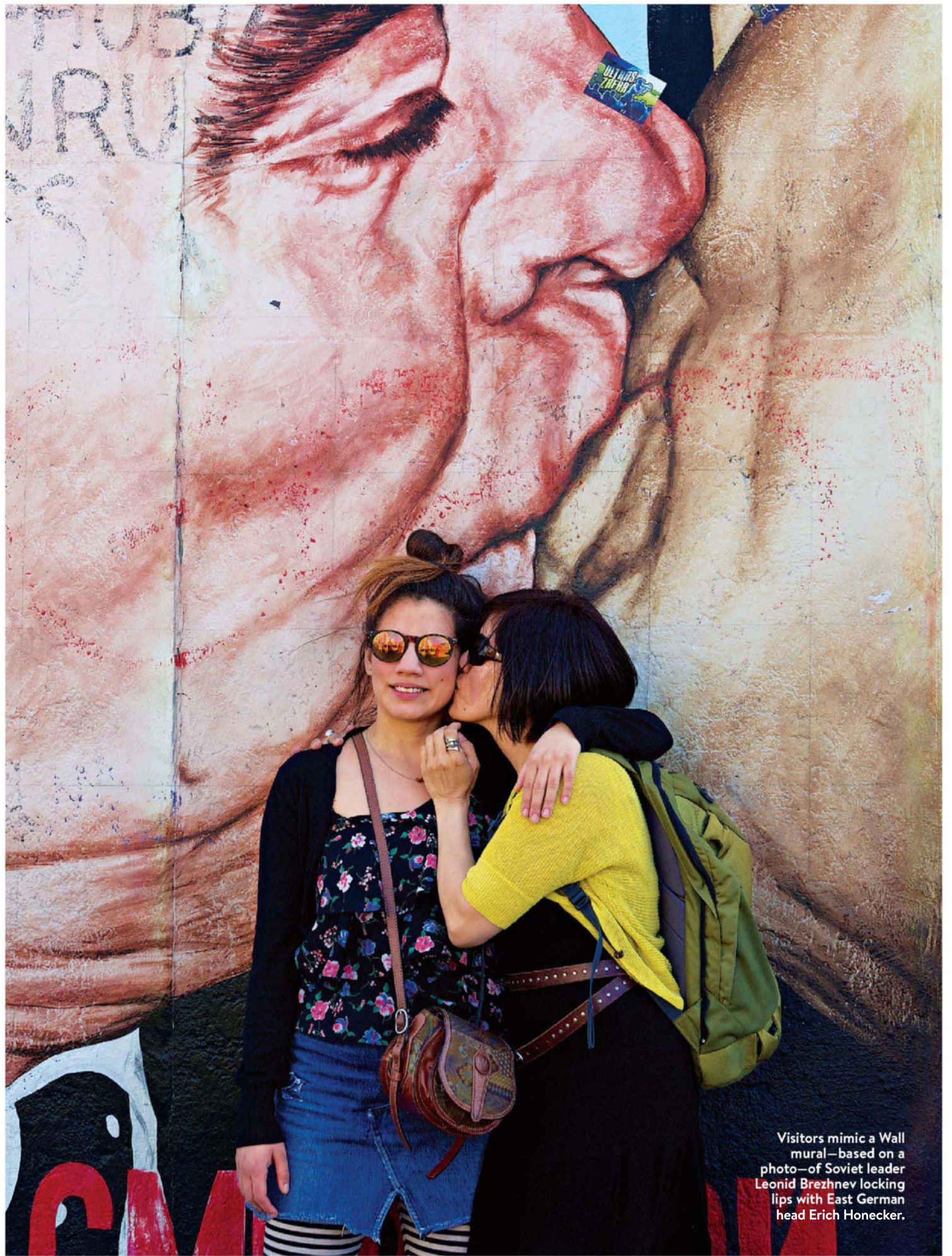
The newest immigrants? Young, well-educated refugees from the tottering economies of southern Europe. Spanish, Italian, and Greek have joined Arabic and Turkish as languages heard more often. These changes are music to Altenhof’s ears.

“People used to exit the subway and run to our ticket office, they were so scared,” he says. “Now we have visitors who are touring the area discover us by chance.” Once again the world is coming to Neukölln—and this time Neukölln is ready.



Berlin goes green in tree-filled Wannsee, a neighborhood on the city's outskirts prized for its lakeside villas (above) and lake beaches. Bar, fashion space, and nightclub, Sameheads (below) is the creation of British brothers drawn to the reinvigorated Neukölln district.





Visitors mimic a Wall mural—based on a photo—of Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev locking lips with East German head Erich Honecker.

WANNSEE

COUNTRY APPEAL IN BERLIN'S LEAFY LAKE DISTRICT

If Prenzlauer Berg and Neukölln are Berlin's urban heart, lake-scribed Wannsee is its green lungs. As the subway whisks me out to this neighborhood on Berlin's southwestern reaches, apartment blocks give way to wide boulevards and, within a few miles, the Grünewald ("green forest"), 7,400 acres of conifers, birches, and small lakes threaded with paths. Soon, summer cottages flicker past, and I know I'm close. The train stops at Wannsee, Berlin's premier summer escape since the 1870s.

Wolfgang Immenhausen, a retired actor, greets me in the courtyard of the feedstore his great-grandfather founded in 1900. The barn—a "gas station for horses," says Immenhausen, once fueling the carriages of well-heeled summer residents—is now part of Mutter Fourage, a rambling art gallery, concert space, and organic deli. Immenhausen leads me toward the café, suffused with the smell of coffee and quiches. Only the cobbled floor gives away the space's past life as a stable. Showing me around, he regales me with his sunny memories of the postwar era, when Wannsee (Wann Lake) was in the American sector.

"I remember GIs conducting combat exercises in the woods and flirting with our German *fräuleins*," he says, with a chuckle. On summer weekends, "it seemed as if the whole city was crammed onto the lake's sandy beaches."

It sounds so idyllic, I'm reluctant to bring up something that happened before Immenhausen was born. But there's no way to come here and not mention the Wannsee Conference. That's what historians call the 1942 breakfast meeting, in a palatial villa overlooking the lake, at which 15 Nazi bureaucrats planned the systematic extermination of Europe's Jews. Immenhausen nods. "They didn't have torture chambers here," he notes. "But in a German, bureaucratic way, they organized a system of death."

The villa is now a museum, the Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz. School groups crowd its parquet floors, murmuring quietly as they file through the conference chamber, a powerful room where past and present crash together. Portraits of the bureaucrats who set the Holocaust in motion hang on walls like mug shots. Immenhausen notes the museum didn't open until 1992, 50 years after the fact, part of a shift in German thinking that started when Immenhausen's generation pressured its elders to come clean.

"As long as the generation of culprits was in power, there was little urge or courage to expose the history," he says.

Out the room's bay windows, sailboats scud across the lake, returning me to the present—where it strikes me it is Immenhausen and his coevals I should thank for the Berlin I call home.

FRIEDRICHSHAIN

WHERE COMMUNIST OFFICIALDOM HELD SWAY

Anyone wondering what East Berlin was like during the Cold War should head to Friedrichshain, east of the Spree River, for a stroll down Karl-Marx Allee, an imperially wide boulevard that East German officials built, and named Stalinallee, in 1953. (That name would fall out of favor by 1961.)

"Architecturally, the avenue takes after Moscow, except a little smaller," author and longtime Friedrichshain resident

Lutz Rathenow tells me. We're standing on Strausberger Platz, looking across four lanes of traffic at a grand fountain with no pedestrian access. On either side of us, apartment buildings reserved for Communist Party elite rise like cliffs. "The question is why the street is so wide, when we didn't have many cars."

The answer lies with East Germany's leaders. Friedrichshain, an industrial center badly damaged in World War II and assigned to the Soviet quadrant, was where they hoped to build a model Communist city. They designed Karl-Marx Allee with parades and cheering crowds in mind. The avenue remains a dominant feature. Look beyond it, though, and you enter another reality.

"Friedrichshain always changes," Miriam Hollstein, a friend who has lived in the district since the Wall fell, tells me over schnitzel at Schneeweiss ("snow white"), a restaurant inspired by the distant Alps. "Even I always find something new."

Change sure has come to Boxhagener Platz, once trod by the working class. It now is home to brewpub Hops and Barley. "This space, originally a butcher shop, works for our brewing operation," the bearded bartender tells me over a fruity pilsener.

Even Karl-Marx Allee has been recast. Near Rathenow's flat I find the former Café Warschau (Warsaw), shuttered after the Wall fell. Its mosaic entryway, once the toast of East Berlin, today leads into the Computerspielmuseum, a shrine to five decades of video games. I'm excited to find my ticket includes unlimited lives on programs from my youth. One device in particular attracts me—a Poly-Play, the only arcade console the GDR made. I begin playing a Pac-Man knockoff, Wolf and Hare, when a boy sidles up. "Can I have the next game?" he asks in German, probably wondering what an adult is doing with the joystick.

Many icons of Communist days are gone, Rathenow notes, but Friedrichshain is so tied to that era that visitors still look for concrete topped with barbed wire. "People ask for places where you feel old East Berlin." As proof, he sends me to the Stasi Museum, once headquarters of East Germany's secret police. Stasi records on East German citizens fill miles of shelves. "They had 15,000 pages on me," Rathenow says. "It's something to be proud of."

The top attraction is the office of Stasi head Erich Mielke, preserved just as it was when democracy activists overran the building in 1990. The cheap paneling, brown polyester carpets, and low ceilings make me feel hemmed in. Yet the idea of an American journalist strolling through what may have been the highest-security floor west of Moscow imparts a thrill.

I have one more stop: the East Side Gallery, the longest bit of the Wall still standing. Murals made by artists from around the world right after the Wall was breached shine like pages in a concrete coloring book. One, especially, grabs me: "The Kiss," depicting Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev and East German leader Erich Honecker in an intimate lip-lock.

The cycle of reinvention, incorporating the past into the future, seems unstoppable. Rathenow can't imagine living anywhere else. "I go two kilometers in any direction and find a different city. Here, I can buy tomorrow's paper tonight. It's addictive."

I can't imagine starting a family anywhere else.

ANDREW CURRY has written about Germany for *Smithsonian*, *Wired*, and *Slate*. Contributing photographers SISSE BRIMBERG and COTTON COULSON found Berlin much transformed since 1982, when Coulson shot it for *National Geographic*.

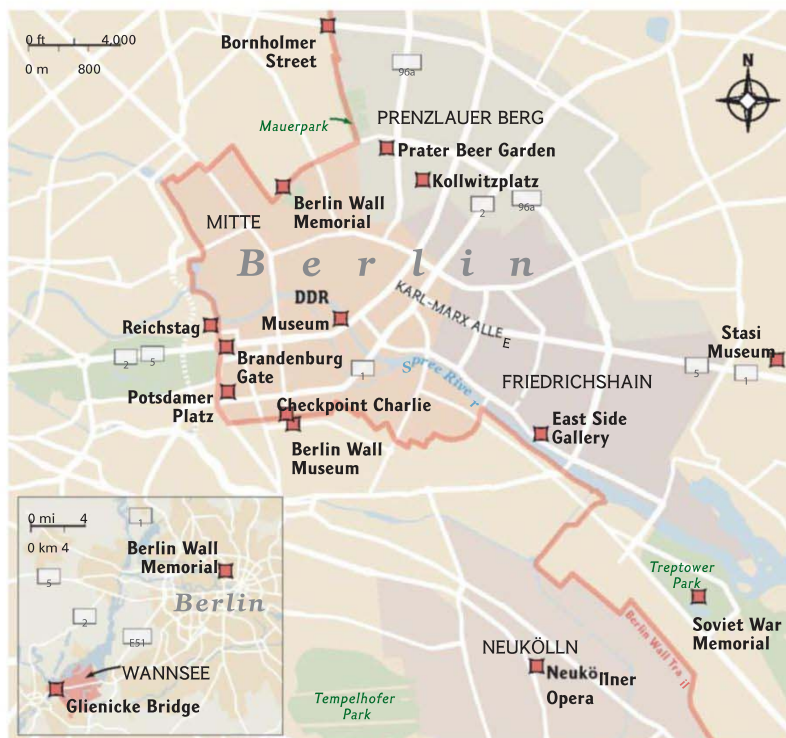
Cold War Berlin

DURING THE COLD WAR, the Berlin Wall came to represent Germany's divided nation and capital. Though mostly dismantled now, it remains a potent presence, marked by sites that hark back to a sinister time in the city's history.

WHAT TO SEE

The **Bornholmer Street border crossing** is where the Wall first was breached, on November 9, 1989, following a surprise announcement by East German officials that border controls were being loosened. East Germans flocked to the crossing, overwhelming guards, who soon lifted the gates. As the news spread, Berliners gathered at the **Brandenburg Gate**, totem of the city and the backdrop

for President John F. Kennedy's famous Cold War speech, in which he proclaimed, "*Ich bin ein Berliner.*" Just to the north looms the **Reichstag** building, where Germany's reunited Parliament first convened; damaged in World War II and abandoned by East German officialdom, it was renovated and reopened in the 1990s. To see one of 302 watch towers that secured the Wall, visit the **Berlin Wall Memorial**. Eight blocks away, the Wall's



SOVIET TRAIL

SHADES OF THE U.S.S.R.

Communist East Berlin, builder of the Berlin Wall, had its share of statues commissioned by its powerful Soviet partner. The largest: the Soviet War Memorial in Treptower Park, honoring Soviet soldiers who died fighting Nazi forces in the 1945 Battle of Berlin. The central statue of a Soviet soldier standing on a broken swastika and holding a German child he rescued is ringed by 16 sarcophagi symbolizing the Soviet Union's satellite states.

most heavily guarded section, called the "death strip," has been transformed into the **Mauerpark**, or "wall park." Still visible is a hundred-foot-long part of the Wall. To the south you'll find **Checkpoint Charlie**, the border crossing in the American sector that became a symbol of the Cold War and has figured in many films. *Ostalgie*, or "nostalgia for the East," informs the **DDR Museum**, which documents life in the East German republic; artifacts include an iconic Trabant car. Nefarious doings of East Germany's secret police, or Stasi, are detailed in an exhibit at the **Stasi Museum**, in the headquarters of the former Ministry for State Security. The longest remaining

segment of the Wall, dubbed the **East Side Gallery** and featuring murals by international artists, extends along Mühlenstrasse, in Friedrichshain. Four Cold War prisoner exchanges took place on the **Glienicke Bridge** (nicknamed "Bridge of Spies") in the Wannsee area—including the return of U-2 spy plane pilot Francis Gary Powers.

WHAT TO READ

The Berlin Wall: A World Divided, 1961-1989, by Frederick Taylor (2006). Documenting the erection and fortification of the barrier, historian Taylor conveys the political realities of Berlin during the Cold War. **The Wall Jumper: A Berlin Story**, by Peter Schneider (1983). West

Berliner Schneider's novel, published six years before the Wall fell, personalizes life in Cold War Berlin with a tale of a man crossing the Wall repeatedly to see family and friends.

ATLAS



Parts of the Berlin Wall can be found in Taiwan, Vatican City—and a men's bathroom in a Las Vegas casino.

Some ways East Berliners tried to cross the Wall: in hot-air balloons and along a carefully placed tightrope.

From 1961 to 1965, the Wall actually was a fortified wire fence; it took years to build the concrete structure.



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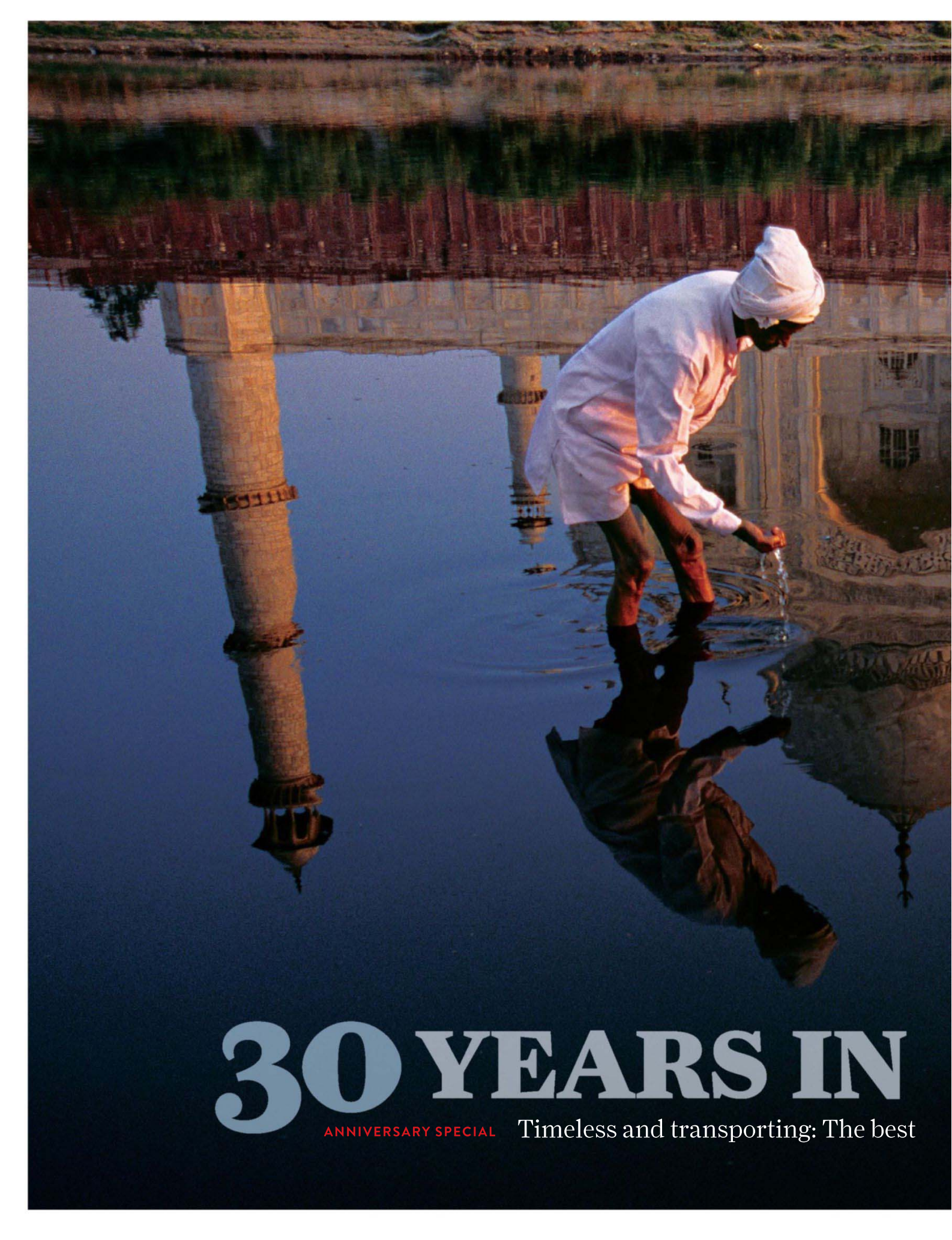
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—Doug P., 2014 seminar participant

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30 YEARS IN

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1

Reflected Glory

STEVE McCURRY, 1999

For our “50 Places of a Lifetime” special issue, the dilemma was how to show overexposed icons like India’s Taj Mahal in a fresh way. McCurry’s solution: Don’t show it at all. “It’s just a reflection in the river,” says director of photography Dan Westergren, “and it’s also upside-down.”

PICTURES

photographs from the pages of *Traveler* magazine



2

Man With a White Hat

KEN KOCHEY, 2001

A great portrait can contain worlds—or at least a neighborhood. Artist Carlos Cortez's welcoming expression reflects the flavor of Pilsen, a largely Mexican neighborhood in Chicago featured in a story about America's ethnic enclaves.



3 Nashville in Neon WILL VAN OVERBEEK, 2010

“This two-block strip of Lower Broadway is the hottest spot in Nashville if you’re there to hear music,” says van Overbeek. “There’s all this great neon and people walking across the street with stand-up bass fiddles. This couple was working that rockabilly look.”



4

By the Dawn's Early Light

SISSE BRIMBERG AND
COTTON COULSON, 2013

“What’s interesting is that this photo gives you a feeling for what it’s like to visit Warsaw, Poland, but it simply shows a window in a hotel and a statue of a king,” says Westergren. “Dawn adds mystery, as does shooting through sheer curtains.”





5

La Buena Vida

CATHERINE KARNOW, 2001

"He was a real character," says Karnow about the dashing Omar Sharif lookalike who draws viewers into the irresistible atmosphere of the Mallorcan restaurant Abacanto. "You just want to sit down and have lunch with this guy," says senior photo editor Carol Enquist.



Georgia on My Mind MICHAEL MELFORD, 1996

"After spending time on the ground in the Georgia Sea Islands, I got to fly and see them from above. The patterns of the tidal marshes and estuaries were amazing," says Melford. "The pilot put us in a tight bank so I could shoot straight down on the boat."



8

Catch a Wave

SUSAN SEUBERT, 2011

"Barbados has some world-class waves, and this spot is where a lot of beginners or tourists go for lessons," says Seubert. "In order to get this shot, I was lying on the ground, to get a different perspective, and using the tree as a framing mechanism, which adds to the feel of a diorama."



9-20

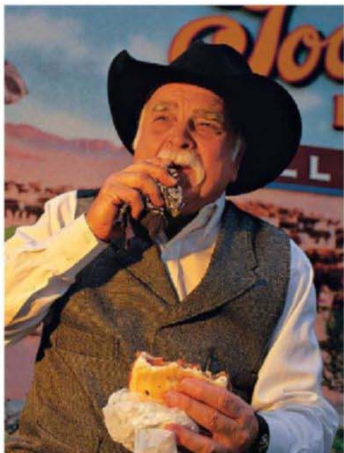
We Never Forget a Face

(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT)

9. SAIGON, VIETNAM, BY DAWN KISH, 2002
10. CALIFORNIA'S LOST COAST, BY CATHERINE KARNOW, 1999
11. CORNWALL PUB, ENGLAND, BY BOB SACHA, 1989
12. PARIS, FRANCE, BY JOHN KERNICK, 2003
13. SPANISH STEPS, ROME, ITALY, BY KEN KOCHEY, 2000
14. KYOTO, JAPAN, BY JUSTIN GUARIGLIA, 2005
15. PROVENCE, FRANCE, BY THEO WESTENBERGER, 2002
16. HOUSTON, TEXAS, BY JOE PATRONITE, 2001
17. BALI, INDONESIA, BY RAYMOND PATRICK, 2013
18. MONTALCINO, TUSCANY, ITALY, BY JOHN KERNICK, 2005
19. DESERT HOT SPRINGS, IDAHO, BY JOHN KERNICK, 2001
20. OPPOSITE PAGE: ARAMBAK TRIBESMAN AND CHILD AT A PAPUA NEW GUINEA SING-SING, BY BOB KRIST, 2000

MORE ONLINE

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nationalgeographic.com/traveler30.





A photograph of four people in historical costumes standing in a field of tall grass. In the background, a cityscape is visible on a hill, with a large building and a tall chimney. The sky is cloudy. The people are dressed in 18th-century style clothing, including wigs, corsets, and a red cape. They are looking towards the left.

21

Pomp and Circumstance

JIM RICHARDSON, 1999

"Everywhere during the Edinburgh Festival, there was something artistic going on," says Richardson. "Buskers on High Street, plays in crypts below Old Town, and these performers in Holyrood Park, who didn't mind climbing the hill for a picture."





22

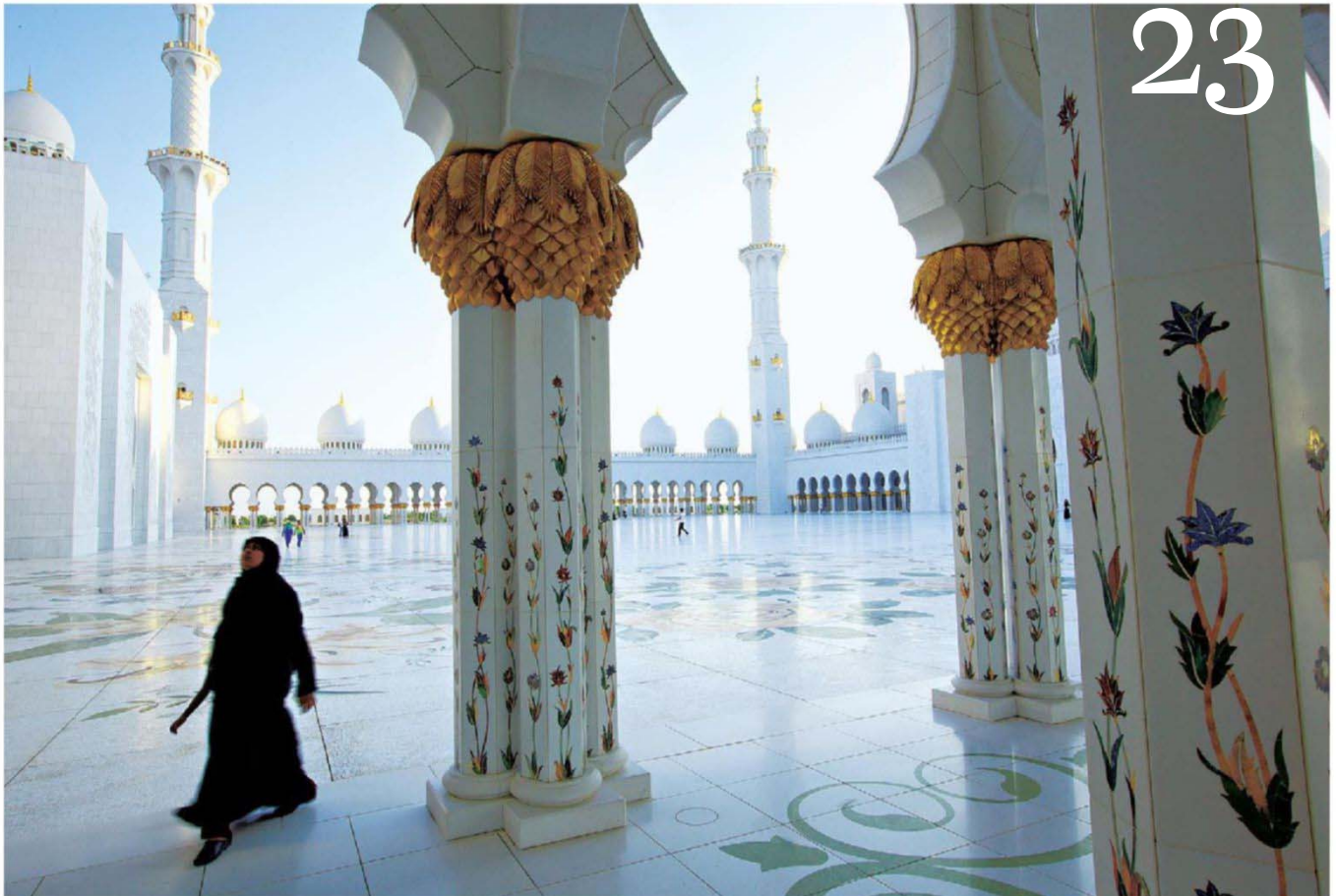
New Orleans on a Roll

DAN DRY, 1985

Headwaiter on the Mississippi riverboat the *Delta Queen*, Tommy Lewis gives his rendition of a New Orleans jazz strut.

"The way he's spinning the umbrella tells you about his personality and also reveals a little about the personality of New Orleans," says photo editor Enquist.

Desert Flower DAVE YODER, 2013 "The Sheikh Zayed Mosque, in Abu Dhabi, is a popular place to take pictures because it's so photogenic," says Westergren. "You just line up the shot and wait for someone to come by. The figure is blurry, but you can tell she's looking up—which is what everybody does when they walk through this grandeur."



23



24

Big Pink THEO WESTENBERGER, 2000 “It seems to rise out of the sea, huge and rosy, like Godzilla in a prom dress: pretty in pink,” wrote novelist Tom Robbins about the Don CeSar Hotel in St. Pete Beach, for *Traveler*. “It’s a proud relic of Old Florida, the Florida that in the first half of the last century sweetened the dreams and warmed the fantasies of snowbound Americans.”



25

Made You Smile

CATHERINE KARNOW, 2001

“During a parade by Cirque du Soleil in downtown Montreal, I noticed these two characters darting amid the crowd, doing mischievous things,” recalls Karnow. “I decided to risk leaving the parade and just followed them around, taking the chance that something serendipitous would happen. And it did, when they went right up to these two businessmen.”



26

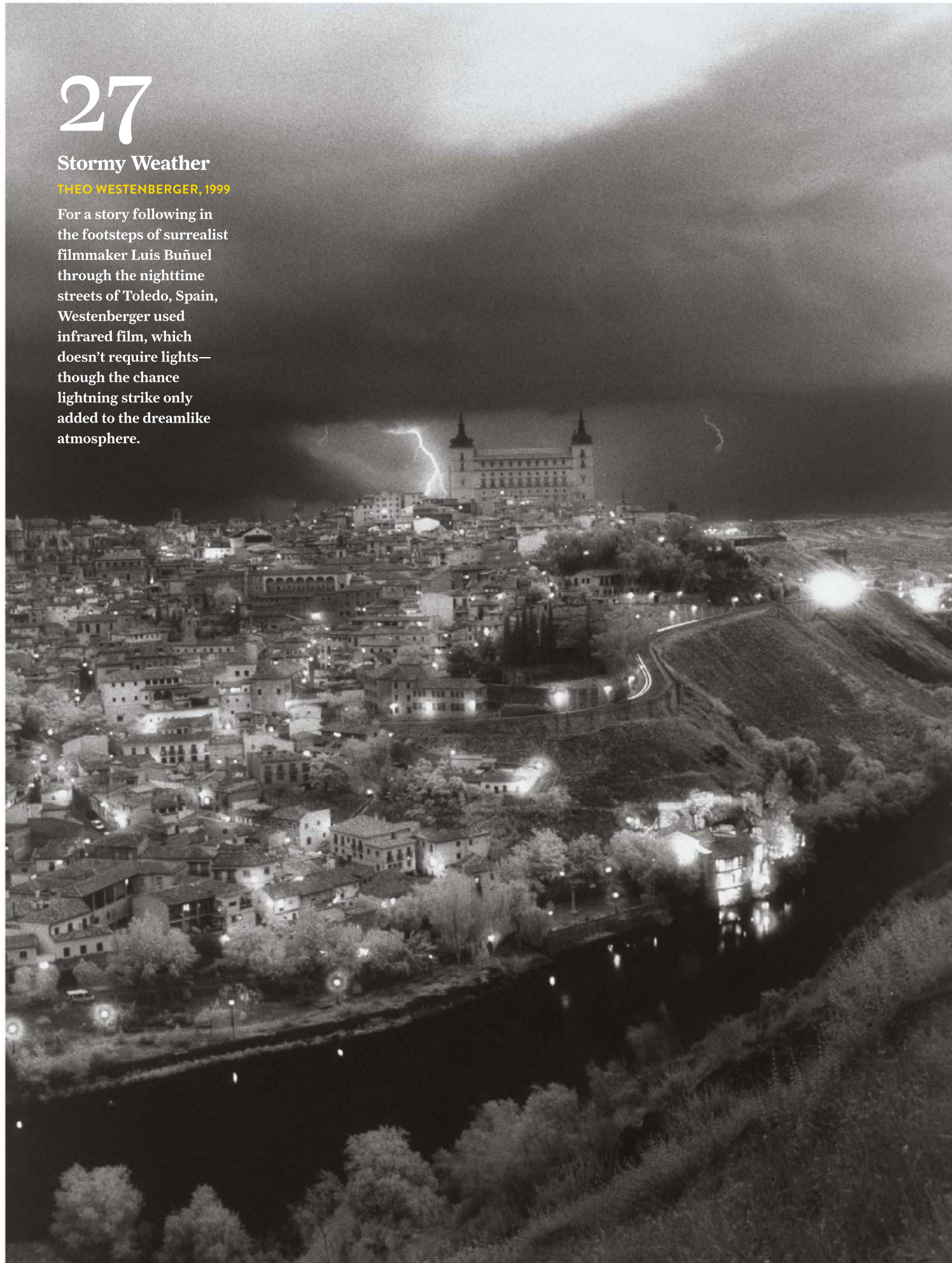
France in the Slow Lane CATHERINE KARNOW, 2005 “On assignment in the Lot Valley, I wanted to do a classic portrait with my Hasselblad, and what could be more classic than this couple with their Deux Chevaux?” says Karnow. “Micheline was a little shy. She preferred to stay in the car. But I liked it that way. I’ve been photographing in France since 1976. This picture looks as if it could have been taken as early as those first years when I was there.”

27

Stormy Weather

THEO WESTENBERGER, 1999

For a story following in the footsteps of surrealist filmmaker Luis Buñuel through the nighttime streets of Toledo, Spain, Westenberger used infrared film, which doesn't require lights—though the chance lightning strike only added to the dreamlike atmosphere.





28

Beside Still Waters MACDUFF EVERTON, 1999

"I was reluctant to set aside more than a day to cruise the backwaters of Kerala, India, on this restored rice boat—what if it was

29

Peaks of Patagonia

PABLO CORRAL, 1997

"This was taken from Hotel Explora in Torres del Paine National Park, in Chile. I had just parked the car when I saw this magnificent vista," says Corral. "I remember sitting there for a long time trying to memorize the color of the water and how quickly everything was changing. The clouds were coming at full speed from the north."





boring?” recalls Everton. “To the contrary, it turned out to be an unending adventure, a wonderful vantage point. I wanted to go on.”



30

The World Is My Oyster

AARON HUEY, 2010

“This was the first time I shot underwater,” says Huey about this image of a pearl diver in the South Pacific atoll of Fakarava. “I’m from Wyoming, I was always a bit afraid of the ocean. But the view through the lens erased my fear pretty quickly. I even found myself swimming into groups of sharks.”



Vast and otherworldly,
the salt pans of Botswana's
Kalahari Desert dwarf
a bush plane's shadow.

THE
REBIRTH
OF

Awe

JUST WHEN HE'S



SEEN IT ALL AND LOST HIS SENSE OF WONDER, BOTSWANA HAPPENS

The Makgadikgadi, a vast salt pan deep in Botswana, must be what the planet looked like before humanity appeared, and what it will look like after we're gone. ¶ This is what I think as I try to wrap my head around the sight in front of me. The immensity is hard to take in. An urban dweller's mind needs signs, or trees, something to give the world measurable parts. But here, horizon to horizon, lies an undifferentiated landscape, an ancient desiccated sea of salt and other minerals without any reference points other than the mottled shadows from clouds. "Now you understand that no matter what anyone ever tells you, the world really is flat," says Ralph Bousfield, the guy who led me here.



"It is completely flat—an undeniable fact, as you can see." We are steering quad bikes along a single set of tracks that trace a line into the far horizon, like a seam stitching together the primordial and the postapocalyptic.

"Columbus didn't know what he was talking about," I say, "because he never came here."

"Exactly."

I TRAVEL TO SEE **PLACES** of epic scale and numinous beauty, to leave the world I'm used to for the chance to look through the

sclera of the everyday and be reminded of much bigger things. But traveling for that feeling of wonder has become ever more elusive. Consider how travel has changed. When French writer Gustave Flaubert first glimpsed the Sphinx, he was so overcome that he trembled. If anyone trembles at the Sphinx now, it's on seeing the many purveyors of souvenirs and camel rides. We're dulled by curated experiences. We have access to too many photos and paintings of the world's special places; we're overexposed before we've even arrived. We've already seen it all.

We know vaguely what we are supposed to feel. And in



A baobab branches out above a camp in the Makgadikgadi Pans, home to native San, or Bushmen (opposite).





A San woman wears traditional bead adornments. Meerkats (left) thrive in the dry climate of the Makgadikgadi.

some ways that also is a problem. On a visit to the Taj Mahal last year, I heard people exclaim, “Just wait till you experience it in person.” Just wait. Oh, the anticipation! “Pictures can’t do it justice,” they’d add.

For me, photos of the Taj Mahal were better than reality. They were taken at times of day when the light brought out resplendent color in the mausoleum’s white marble masonry, when tour guides weren’t herding people eager to take the photos that could never do it justice. The one thing I couldn’t feel at the Taj Mahal was a sense of wonder, a failing symptomatic of this modern affliction. A certain spirit is slipping out of our grasp. I call it the death of awe, and I’m intent on not surrendering to it. The question is, where on Earth can we still experience that sense of transcendent wonder?

“THIS COUNTRY FILLS my heart.” My friend Staci was Skyping from Botswana. “I don’t want to leave.”

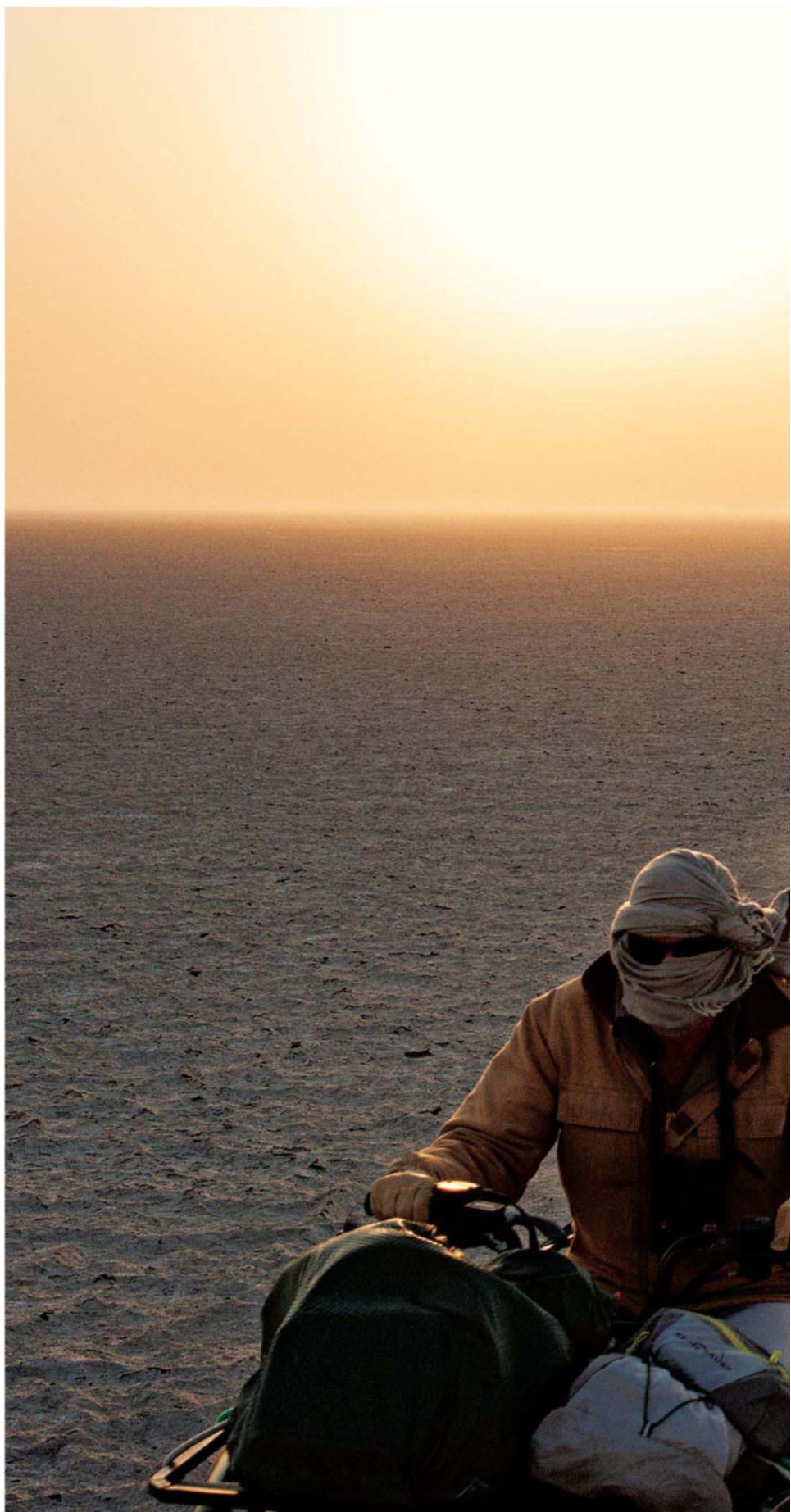
The more she talked, the more this Texas-size nation in southern Africa seemed the place to turn me around. So I’ve come to Botswana with the hope—tentative—that awe awaits. I’ve craved its exhilaration and discombobulation.

Exhilaration quickly takes hold of me on the Makgadikgadi (meh-CAH-dee-CAH-dee), one of the bleakest landscapes at what feels like the end of the world. It looks like the Great Nothing.

In fact, this 6,000-square-mile wedge of the Kalahari—Earth’s fifth largest desert—was covered by an immense lake ten million years ago. From this area, according to ancestral DNA markers, our human ancestors may have emerged.

Nor is the apparently bleak expanse barren. Within the great pan grow grasslands; palm and baobab trees reach for the sky. Through them an unexpected variety of animals roams, meerkats to big cats. The pan experiences two seasons: dry and rainy. As the rainy season ends, thousands of zebras migrate across the flats. Then there are the indigenous San, or Bushmen, nomadic once but mostly subsistence farmers now, who know how to find what they need to survive. The entire chain of life is playing out here.

Awe isn’t limited to landscapes; it also is sparked by people, especially people who connect to the essence, the wisdom,





Bundled for protection, visitors race across the Makgadikgadi to outrun a brewing sandstorm.

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of a place. People of awe perceive shapes and stories in stone mountains, hear animals speak, and gaze up to the stars for personal messages from their ancestors.

One afternoon Bousfield introduces me to some Bushmen; their ancestors have crisscrossed the desert for millennia. The men wear beaded headbands, are girded in antelope skins, and carry sticks. Bousfield notes they don't always dress like this—the modern world has reached here too—but it's their heritage. The sticks, used to clear pathways and pull up buried roots, seem also to keep them in touch with their cultural roots.

The elder, Kgamxoo Tixhao, has a bulbous belly suspended over a thong. It is evident his authority comes from his advanced age and his knowledge of traditional customs. He speaks only Taa, the Khoisan language of clicks, so a young woman named Xushe translates for us. I learn that Kgamxoo doesn't know how old he is because Bushmen don't mark time in years. He figures he's pretty old, though his skin is smooth and the others still admire his hunting prowess. With each question I pose, he and Xushe volley a few exchanges, laughing. She then gives me very brief, sober translations that leave me thinking something is lost in transmission. Or, maybe, that I'm not yet worthy of fuller answers.

So we walk. Xushe grabs a plant she believes is an aphrodisiac.

"If you like a boy and want him to like you, do this!" she says, and playfully blows the plant on a man named Cobra, who appears to be twice her age and speaks English. His gray hair is arranged in miniature dreadlocks.

Cobra stops and points. "House of a scorpion," he says. "It is sleeping now. We make a fire, and it will come out."

"I think they want to stop and have a smoke," Bousfield confides.

Kgamxoo, whose brother starred in the award-winning 1980s film *The Gods Must Be Crazy*, squats and begins twisting a stick between his palms over a nest of twigs. In seconds the nest is smoking. It wasn't so long ago that people gasped when the throw of a switch lit up a city; I have the same reaction now as I watch a fire come into being the way it has for most of human history.

Cobra picks up the smoking twigs and blows. The fire ignites, and soon

some hand-rolled cigarettes are being lit. Smoking is one of the few pleasures for Bushmen; they and their people are poor. This reality has made them vulnerable to the intrusions of modern life, threatening their ancient ways, animistic beliefs, and hunting skills. The Bushmen population of 55,000 is a tiny fraction of Botswana's two million citizens. Only a slim minority of that minority retains a connection to life in the bush.

"*The Gods Must Be Crazy* is not this country today," Jeff Ramsay, an adviser to Botswana's president, Ian Khama, told me. "That really doesn't exist anymore."

Cobra returns to the scorpion "house" and digs out a dust-covered creature the length of his palm with pincers and a tail curled to strike. He subdues it, then stuffs it into his mouth and works his mandibles as if chewing. I hardly know what to say. However, he isn't eating the scorpion; he is rinsing it with his saliva so we can see it better. When he pulls it out, the scorpion is bright yellow, with black eyes on a tiny, eerily expressive black face.

Cobra lets it pinch his finger.

"Doesn't that hurt?" I ask.

He shrugs as if to say, no, not really. I wince, but one measure of a Bushman is his ability to take pain. It's through suffering that the ancestors decide whether a person is worthy of crossing into other worlds and visiting them. Cobra is an elevated individual. He is also, I think, a bit of a performer, despite being dressed in ordinary work clothes, not bush skins.

The sun sits on the edge of the horizon, spraying saffron and pink light, then rolls off into the night, dropping us into darkness. What comes next is either a mystery or an astonishing bit of performance art; as an outsider, it's hard for me to know.

Tonight the Bushmen are preparing to visit their ancestors. Piling up pieces of dry wood, they make a fire. The women sit and begin to clap and sing; I sit with the women. The men tie rattles around their legs and march in short, hard steps, stomping the ground, circling the seated women. At first the mood is lighthearted. Everyone laughs, the singing is cheerful. Then the singing, clapping, stomping, and rattling rise in intensity, turning the song into what sounds like a lamentation, layers of singing and pleading

that I feel through my whole being. The fire's intensity also is growing, the flames crackling in a kind of dance of their own. I can feel the heat on my hands and face.

Kgamxoo's body glistens with sweat. His face, etched and furrowed now, like an ironwood carving, has changed. His eyes appear distant and haunted. I reassure myself there is a rational explanation. Maybe it's the exertion of the dance, or the heat. Whatever, Kgamxoo is here yet not here. He staggers, listing forward. He steps toward the fire. It's not quite right to say he walks on the burning embers because he moves so slowly; it almost is as if he is standing on them. He is not tolerating pain; he doesn't even notice it.

Back in the bush, I'd asked Kgamxoo if communicating with ancestors was through words or something one just understood. Were the ancestors people one knew, such as a mother or a father, or people from a general past? The only part of his answer I'd been able to make sense of was that ancestors sent pain and sickness to test a person's worthiness to enter their realm.

The desert has become so profoundly quiet that when there's sound, it seems to bounce back off walls of surrounding darkness. Suddenly, Kgamxoo bends down, gathers dust, and wipes it on his face. Then he walks behind us, puts his hands on our heads, and recites an incantation. I feel the grit of dirt on my scalp. All I can think is that here, awe—that blend of astonishment and reverence—is the true quest.

Slowly, the fire flickers out. Soon, the nighttime air feels like cold breath.

As I walk back to the camp, stars shoot across the dark horizon. At first, after the high energy of the ceremony, everything seems absolutely silent. I hear only the sounds of my footsteps on the crusty desert floor. But as my senses adjust, I realize the atmosphere is vibrating. It is a rising hum of insects. Whereas we diurnal creatures perceive the night as inactive, here nocturnal creatures are taking over the landscape. Then an awe-some sound tears the curtain of the dark: a pride of lions roaring into the night.

THE FOLLOWING DAY finds me deep in the Great Nothing. Bousfield and I navigate our quad bikes across dunes shaped like horseshoes and past ancient

riverbeds and lakes at the bottom of the Okavango Rift, an incipient fault in the landscape. We continue on to a broad savanna. Then the salt pan begins. A light wind kicks up. In the distance, little white cones of dust are gathering into a big brown sandstorm that dims the wattage of the sun. My head is swaddled in a cotton *kikoi* and I wear sunglasses, but sand invades me anyway. I taste dirty salt, ingesting what must be a multiple of the recommended daily allowance, and my eyes feel as if someone is trying to strike a sulfur match on them. The storm sails over us. I want to close my eyes and stop, but we need to get through it, so I squint at the ground and keep rolling, hot tears pouring down my cheeks.

The world is coming to an end.

Bousfield and I push on, and finally the storm is gone or we have escaped it. We find our way to a grove of baobab trees, their elephantine trunks topped by gnarled branches. Baobabs, iconic of southern Africa, can live more than a thousand years. After they die, they will leave no visible sign they were ever here except a patch in the ground.

We settle in among the trees. A profusion of stars perforates the black cosmos. The Milky Way, visible through baobab branches, spills across the heavens. I look to my right, to my left. Everywhere, I see stars. Bushmen say when you die you become part of the stars.

EVENTUALLY I FALL ASLEEP. When I awake, I gaze at the dawn sky—and it occurs to me that there may be a reason why Kgamxoo, the elder, didn't really answer my question about communicating across worlds. Maybe this is what awe is—a portal to revelation, coming into landscapes that are peculiar and vast, where the absence of external barriers breaks down the internal ones, and we feel something universal. Awe points us back into ourselves.

"[I]f you gaze for long into an abyss," wrote philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, "the abyss gazes also into you." I grasp for some intimation of meaning, but it stays just beyond the reach of words.

Writer **TODD PITOCK** lived in South Africa during the 1990s. Photographer **RAYMOND PATRICK** found baobab trees magical; "they seemed to protect us."



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Botswana

WITH ITS MIX OF NATIONAL PARKS and private game reserves, Botswana offers visitors a range of experiences, from the Makgadikgadi salt pans (part of which is protected as Makgadikgadi Pans National Park) to the water-rich Okavango Delta.

WHEN TO GO

The salt pans are at their most evocative, with mirage-like conditions, in the dry season, June to September. Rains begin mid-November and stay into March, flooding the pans and hydrating nutritious grasses that attract thousands of zebras from Namibia, a 300-mile round-trip considered the longest of zebra migrations.

WHAT TO KNOW

Travelers to Botswana need a valid passport; currently U.S. visitors don't need a visa. Along with other African nations, Botswana is subject to malaria and other tropical diseases. For health precautions and travel updates,

visit the U.S. State Department website, travel.state.gov. First-time visitors should consider traveling with a safari outfitter; outfitters organize travel arrangements and tailor itineraries to your specifications.

GETTING THERE AND AROUND

No airlines currently fly directly from the U.S. to Botswana; a common route is via South Africa. From there, Air Botswana and South African Airways fly to Maun, the regional hub in Botswana. Visitors not traveling with an outfitter can rent vehicles (four-wheel drives are best) in Maun, Kasane, and Francistown.



LODGING IN

MAKGADIKGADI

Four camps offer lodging in the Makgadikgadi salt pans: **Jack's Camp**, in the central pans, with ten guest tents; sister site **San Camp**, just to the northwest, with 14 guest tents; nearby **Camp Kalahari**, with

ten guest tents; and, on the other, western side of the Makgadikgadi Pans, the **Meno A Kwena Tented Camp**, with eight guest tents. For lodging in Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, try **Leroo La Tau**. All of the camps have a dining tent (Camp Kalahari has a dining lodge) and on-site guides, available for local or overnight sightseeing excursions.

OTHER SIGHTS

Botswana is home to ten national parks and game reserves, and the **Okavango Delta** World Heritage site. National Geographic Explorers-in-Residence Beverly and Derek Joubert, who founded Great Plains Conservation, operate four

camps around the Okavango, including the **Zarafa** and **Selinda Camps**. Also operating camps and lodges in northern Botswana is Desert & Delta Safaris.

ATLAS



Botswana's Jwaneng Mine is the world's richest diamond mine by value, with up to 15 million carats dug annually.

One of Earth's top concentrations of rock art—more than 4,500 drawings—lies in Botswana's Kalahari Desert.

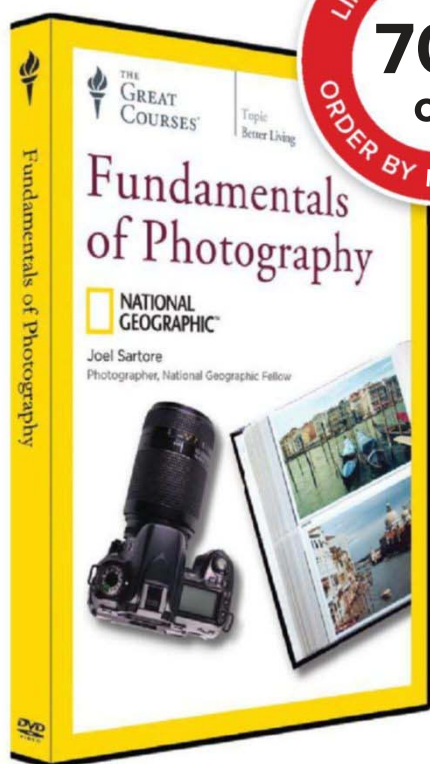
Botswana's currency is the pula, also a local word for rain, which is critical to this often dry nation's survival.

PARTING SHOT

MEERKAT HIGH

"I took this fun photograph in the Makgadikgadi Pans around San Camp," says photographer Raymond Patrick, "where a clan of meerkats has become habituated to the presence of people. This meerkat had climbed onto author Todd Pitock's head because the height offered a lofty vantage point for a survey of the area. Meerkats always are on the lookout for predators that hunt them, such as jackals and martial eagles. I think Todd enjoyed being of strategic use."





Fundamentals of Photography

Taught by Joel Sartore
Photographer, National Geographic Fellow

LECTURE TITLES

1. Making Great Pictures
2. Camera Equipment—What You Need
3. Lenses and Focal Length
4. Shutter Speeds
5. Aperture and Depth of Field
6. Light I—Found or Ambient Light
7. Light II—Color and Intensity
8. Light III—Introduced Light
9. Composition I—Seeing Well
10. Composition II—Background and Perspective
11. Composition III—Framing and Layering
12. Let's Go to Work—Landscapes
13. Let's Go to Work—Wildlife
14. Let's Go to Work—People and Relationships
15. Let's Go to Work—From Mundane to Extraordinary
16. Let's Go to Work—Special Occasions
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The Inion family, in
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

TRAVELERS



OF THE YEAR

ORDINARY PEOPLE DOING
EXTRAORDINARY THINGS IN THEIR
JOURNEYS AROUND THE WORLD

BY **GEORGE W. STONE**



Discovery is the destination for these travelers who are driven by curiosity and transported by passion to overcome any obstacle along the way. On *Traveler's* 30th anniversary, our third annual list proves that there's no barrier to entry for globe-trotters on a mission to embrace the world and bring about positive change.

THE INION FAMILY 11 INDIVIDUALS, ONE INSPIRING JOURNEY

Home is where the heart is. For the Inion family (www.traveldeepandwide.com), that means everywhere. When Brent and Stacey-Jean set out from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on a family road trip in 2007, their goal was to explore the United States. As their itinerary grew to include Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Belize, and Mexico, so did their number. There are now 11 Inions, including four kids adopted from China, India, Egypt, and South Korea. Their ninth child, Jeriah, was born with Down syndrome and a heart condition. Four of their other children have special needs as well, with conditions that include blindness, quadriplegia, and cerebral palsy.

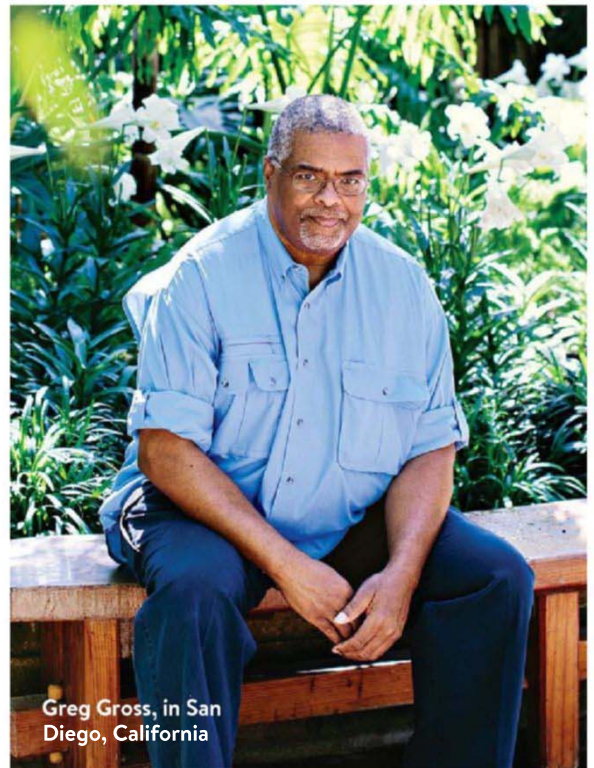
Like any big family, they have experienced a lot and aren't often surprised by much, but their multiyear journey has astonished even them. Instead of presenting obstacles, the Inion kids' needs have created opportunities. "We've been invited to speak in villages and schools where handicapped children are still seen as a curse or shamed," says Brent. "We encourage understanding. The best thing we have ever done for our children is to unshackle them from the concept that they must live according to a rigid routine."

Active homeschoolers, the Inions, who belong to an Amish-Mennonite group, say that travel is both education and therapy. "A day will come when travel around the world will not be possible for some of our children," says Stacey-Jean. "But right now they are thriving in the warm sunshine, learning through life experiences." Brent's advice for traveling families is straightforward: "Don't wait. Travel will open the world to your children."

GREG GROSS BREAKING DOWN RACIAL BARRIERS

Greg Gross has a dream. "Growing up, my life was split between two inner cities—New Orleans and Oakland—dreaming of becoming a writer and a traveler, surrounded by kids with no dreams at all," says Gross. About ten years ago, he met a young woman in Natchez, Mississippi, who proudly told him she intended never to set foot beyond her city. "I suddenly realized how many black Americans felt as she did. Seeing the world was something for 'other people,' not them. It wasn't just about a lack of money. It was a mind-set in which to be caught outside your cultural comfort zone was to be vulnerable, dangerously exposed. That was when I knew I had to write about travel—to take the mystery, and thus the fear, out of it all."

Getting travelers from here to there is the task this retired journalist has taken on with his blog, *I'm Black and I Travel!* (imblacknittravel.com). From his desk in San Diego, he documents black travel experiences, highlights heritage destinations, profiles travelers, and tackles the fears of people heading out into the world. "I often hear from black Americans who wonder what kind of treatment they can expect in particular parts of the globe," he says. He writes about his own journeys: 27 countries, five continents, 42 U.S. states, and counting.



JILLIAN MITCHELL (INION FAMILY, PRECEDING PAGES), JESSICA SAMPLE (GROSS), CADE MARTIN (ZIPSE AND PATRICK)

Liz Zipse and
Kip Patrick
pick up trash at
a park in Maryland.



LIZ ZIPSE & KIP PATRICK

THE WEEKLY REVOLUTION

Short-term volunteering works. Just ask Liz Zipse and Kip Patrick, who spent 16 months traveling 30,000 miles in 24 countries and volunteering at least one day each week. The wedded wanderers counted whale sharks in the Philippines, picked up trash in Borneo, practiced English with monks in Laos, painted schools in Uganda, and distributed shoes in El Salvador.

Their mission, which began with

an impromptu trash-clearing effort near a trailhead in Colorado, is quickly becoming a movement. “Afterwards, we thought: If it was this easy to travel and do some good, what was keeping us from doing it everywhere?” Patrick recalls.

They embarked on their journey to prove that short-term volunteering can help change the world. Now they’re settled back in the States, and their blog, 1 of 7 (www.1of7.org), has morphed into

an online platform “to show travelers and nontravelers alike that making a difference is not only simple, but it’s something we should and can do every week,” says Zipse.

“Once-a-week volunteering is educational, humanizing, eye-opening, and possibly one of the most underutilized foreign policy tools around,” says Patrick. “Best of all, kindness can start a chain reaction of positivity.”

THE GILBERT FAMILY

AT HOME EVERYWHERE, BLOGGING WITH THE KIDS

Travel is the art of being present,” says Christine Gilbert, who, along with her husband, Drew, has been on the go since 2008. That’s a long time on the road—long enough for the troupers to add a son (Cole, 4) and daughter (Stella, 20 months) to their tribe. Since turning to travel as an antidote to their former Boston-based workaday worlds, the family has practiced presence in some 38 places, including China, Costa Rica, and Morocco.

“There’s this idea that traveling is something you have to do before you have kids, but there are huge benefits to doing it after you have kids, too,” says Christine. On the heels of a two-year “experiment in language learning” on Mexico’s Pacific coast (“we’ve tackled Mandarin, Arabic, and Spanish,” she says), the family spent the summer biking 2,500 miles across Europe before temporarily settling into Barcelona.

“Since I’ve had children, that sense of seeing the world has become even more important,” says Christine. “I don’t just want to raise my children to be global citizens, to know a culture other than their own. I also want to pass on the gift of being aware of the world, of appreciating the beautiful, messy, strange wonder of this inexplicable planet and the curious humans who inhabit it.”

Embracing life on a global scale costs money. Drew is a commercial artist, and Christine is a writer (*almostfearless.com*). Their Wi-Fi-enabled careers inspired their new project, *The Wireless Generation*, a documentary film about people who have quit their jobs and turned to travel.



The Gilberts,
in Girona, Spain



Joe Foley,
close to home
in Boston

JOE FOLEY

TRAVELING WITH TEEN SPIRIT

For Joe Foley—a high schooler from Newton, Massachusetts, with a serious case of wanderlust—online fantasy games opened up an interest in exploring the real world. Foley suggested to his parents that the Internet can provide a safety net for solo travelers. To his surprise, they agreed, and in the past two years, he’s been on 11 solo trips, including weeklong getaways in Iceland and Spain, a backpacking trek from Helsinki to Paris, and two jaunts to Japan.

This is a story about how determination helped turn a challenge into a superpower. Foley, now 18, grew up with Asperger’s, an autism spectrum disorder that can make social interaction difficult. While the syndrome can be especially taxing for teens, Foley discovered that it offers benefits to travelers. “Asperger’s can help me,” he says. “As a foreigner in a non-English-speaking country, I’m not expected to converse fluently to begin with. I often find it easier to talk to people who don’t speak great English, and I love to practice local language skills. And I become obsessive about countries, their histories, and cultures, and memorizing subway and hiking maps.”

Along with his positive spirit, technology helped pave his way toward independence. Now wrapping up high school, the digital nomad tracks his trips on his blog (*travelsoffofo.com*).

TINO SORIANO (GILBERT FAMILY), MATT COSBY (FOLEY), DANA ROMANOFF (MACINNIS), CLAUDIA SANCHES (ROTHNEY)

MELINDA MACINNIS
**FINDING BEAUTY
IN THE BEASTS**

Swaziland is about as far from south-central L.A. as you can get. But for Melinda MacInnis, a former English teacher, distance brought a perspective that her classroom could not. Seven years ago, she took a trip to southern Africa's wilderness areas, where she witnessed both the devastation brought by poachers and the power of ecotourism to transform communities and save wildlife. "It sounds trite, but I had one of those clear-as-a-bell moments where I just knew I had to help," she says. "But what was I going to do?"

The teacher hit the books, researching conservation and poaching, focusing especially on rhinos. "I decided to make a documentary—not that I had any experience in the field," says MacInnis. "But as a teacher, I was forever telling my students that if they worked hard and followed their passions, they could achieve anything."

She returned to Swaziland and started filming *The Price* (thepricedocumentary.com), a largely self-funded documentary about the global plight of the rhinos. "It's called *The Price* because rhino horn is now one of the most expensive illegal substances on the planet. The title also refers to the price of our disregard for the natural world," says MacInnis.

Filming took MacInnis around the world. "This all happened because I took that first trip," says MacInnis. "Traveling is the single greatest way of understanding something. It allows you to bear witness in a way you just can't replicate."



Melinda MacInnis,
at the Denver Zoo

Rebecca Rothney with
a student, in Curaçao



REBECCA ROTHNEY
**A LESSON ON WHAT
TO PACK IN YOUR LUGGAGE**

Stuffed suitcases are nothing to be proud of—unless they're laden with supplies for communities in need. Rebecca Rothney, a former school teacher in Raleigh, North Carolina, is on a mission to inspire travelers to turn extra luggage space into a philanthropic delivery device.

As founder of Pack for a Purpose (packforapurpose.org), Rothney oversees an aid organization that within five years has delivered more than 45,000 pounds of supplies to 425 community-based programs in 60 countries. She's helped travelers drop off medical supplies in Mongolia, glue sticks in Ghana, books in Brazil, Frisbees in Fiji, and clothing for Qatar's Red Crescent refugee camps in Syria and Lebanon.

"I grew up with the belief that if you are part of a community, you are responsible for contributing in whatever way you can," says Rothney. This sensibility helped her see an opportunity when she first visited Botswana a dozen years ago and discovered schools without supplies—a shocking sight for a teacher. Her effort to mend this broken grade school formed the basis of Pack for a Purpose.

"I've learned that there is need everywhere and that appreciation and generosity are universal," she says. And what does Rothney never leave home without packing? "Gratitude, wonder, and laughter—they require no space and enhance every trip."

TAMBRA RAYE STEVENSON
FUSION OF
TASTE AND PLACE

Where some cooks see a root vegetable, Tambra Raye Stevenson sees a road map for discovering family roots. This nutritionist and culinary historian has turned her faith in the healing power of heritage foods into a tool for cultural exchange, placing the spiritual and nutritional values of traditional African cuisine on the front burner. “Food, like travel, helps me to gain a deeper compassion, understanding, and appreciation of people beyond borders,” says the mother of two. Her interest in travel was sparked by her fireman father’s explorations of Jamaica’s outback, fueled by an international nutrition class she took in college, and focused by stints teaching health education in the worker camps of the Dominican Republic and fixing homes wrecked by Hurricane Katrina.

It was an African ancestry DNA test that uncovered her family’s Fula lineage in Niger and Nigeria and inspired her to turn her passions into a profession. Stevenson founded NativSol Kitchen (www.nativsol.com), a Washington, D.C.-based learning community through which she teaches her “Taste of African Heritage” cooking classes and challenges families to swap their standard American diet for a traditional African diet. In Nigeria, as around the world, locals are replacing heritage foods with hamburgers, with nutritional consequences. Stevenson’s mission is to persuade eaters on both sides of the Atlantic “to remember, value, and eat their heritage foods.”

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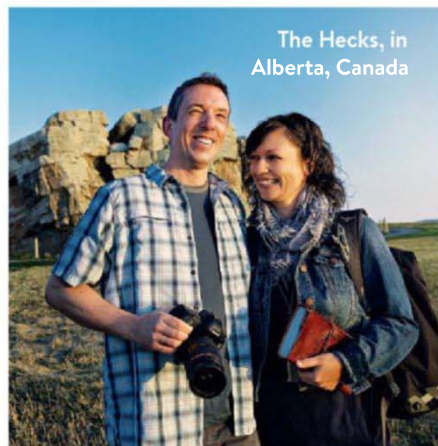
DALENE & PETER HECK HOUSE-SITTING AROUND THE WORLD

Their motto may be minimal—“No possessions. No plans. Just travel”—but their first task was monumental. In 2009, Dalene and Peter Heck sold everything and reduced a 2,100-square-foot home in Alberta, Canada, to 200 liters of backpack space. “We went from riches to rags,” jokes Dalene.

Since then, the bloggers (www.hecktictravels.com) have volunteered in Bolivia, became godparents in Honduras, kayaked around Patagonia, swung a scythe on a farm in Romania, studied history in Turkey and Spanish in Argentina, witnessed a violent workers protest in Cambodia, and explored the nooks and crannies of Greenland and Jordan.

“Our mission is to travel simply and prove that a life with very few possessions can be more fulfilling,” says Peter. Their vagabonding ways would not have been sustainable without a watershed discovery. The chance to house-sit in British Columbia led to a similar six-month stint in Honduras, and from then on, the now peripatetic house-hoppers have saved a fortune while spinning the globe. They’ve turned their discoveries into an e-book to share their tips with other travelers.

“We are changed human beings,” says Dalene. “We learned that we don’t need what we think we do and that the world is not as scary as everyone says it is. Instead of finding fear, we’ve found the most hospitable people we could ever hope to meet.”



The Hecks, in
Alberta, Canada



Heather Finney,
in San Francisco,
California

HEATHER FINNEY A PHOTOGRAPHER LIFTS THE VEIL

Every traveler carries a question. For Heather Finney, a Bay Area-based photographer, that question is, What is life like for women in other cultures? “As an American, I found there was a hole in the imagery and information that I received about the daily lives of women in the world,” she says. “So I decided to set out and see for myself what it was like.”

Following an itinerary that many travelers would steer clear of, Finney set off for the Middle East in 2013 to photograph women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Afghanistan. Her project, *From What I Can See* (fromwhaticansee.com), presents profiles in text and images of women driving cars in Dubai, taking English classes in Kabul, and surviving as Syrian refugees in Jordan’s Zaatari camp. “These are places that Americans tend to fear when hearing the name, but my goal is to show what normal life is like there,” she says.

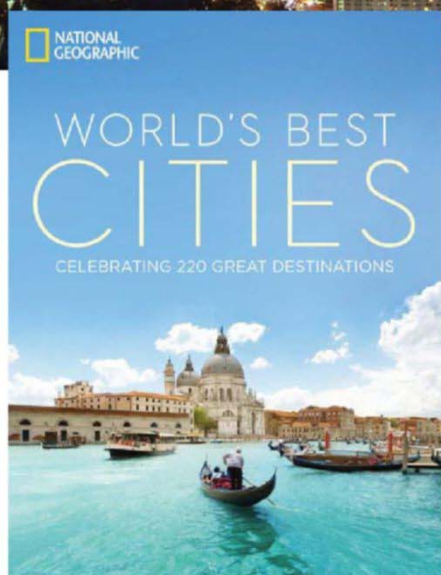
Instead of images of repression, chaos, and fear, Finney’s work speaks of diversity, dreams, and struggles within the Middle East. She also discovered that the women she photographed shared many of her own aspirations. “I believe in helping different cultures find similarities that they didn’t know they had,” she says. In return, she’s encountered “beauty, grace, strength, and kindness” in some of the world’s least likely places, including the refugee camps of Iraqi Kurdistan, where she hopes to resume filming a documentary.

“I believe that every time I go to a new country and I connect with a human there, I am making the world smaller,” Finney says. “If my photos can show a different perspective, then I feel I am doing something worthwhile.”

Editor at Large **GEORGE W. STONE** is currently based in Southeast Asia.



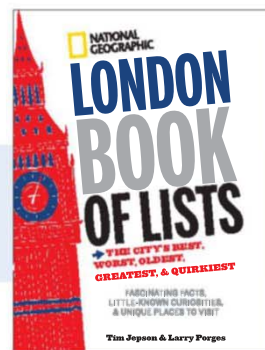
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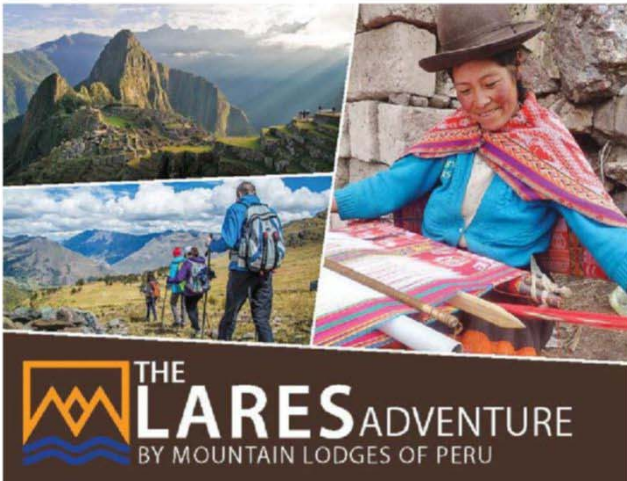
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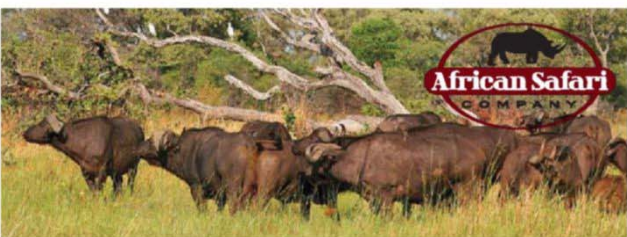


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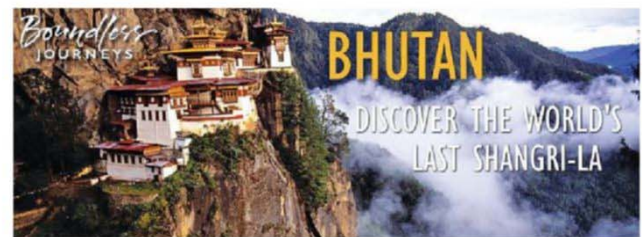
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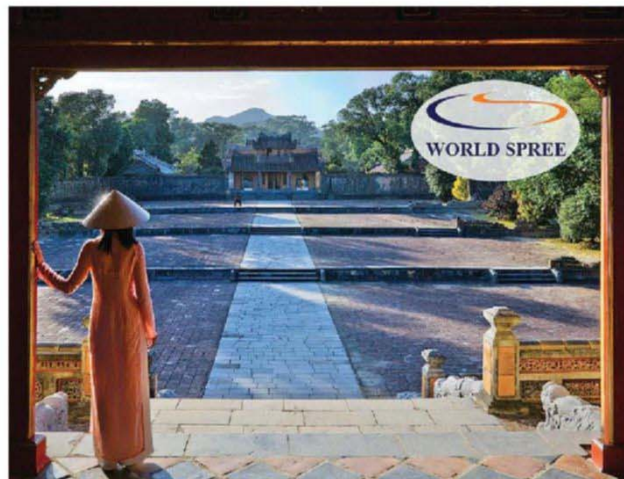


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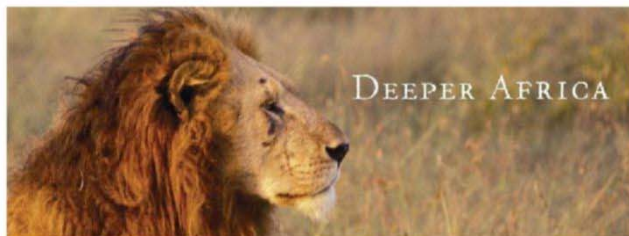
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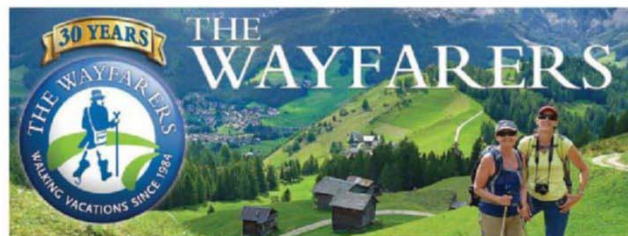
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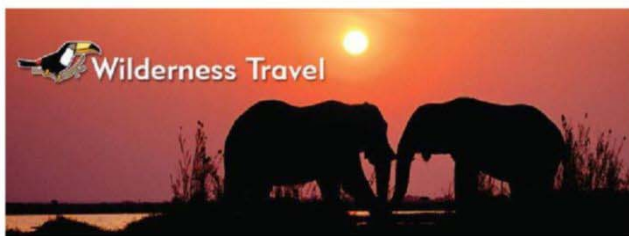
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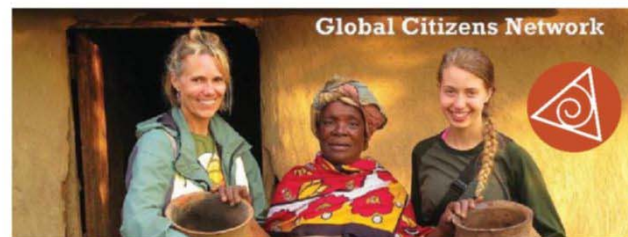
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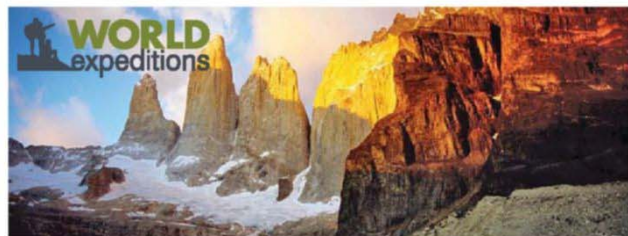
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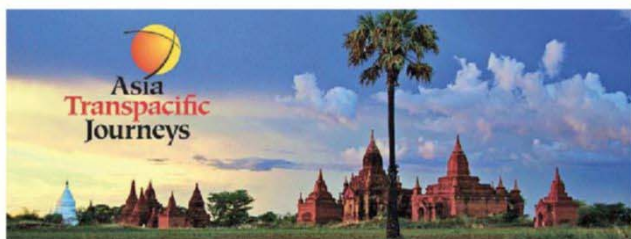
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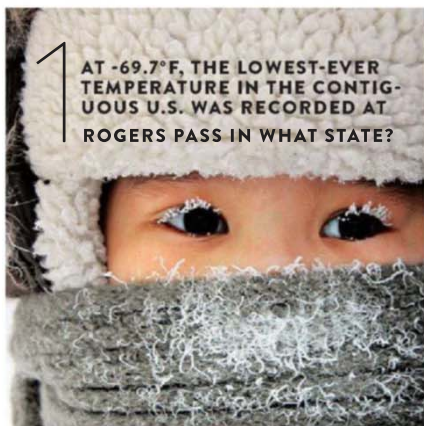
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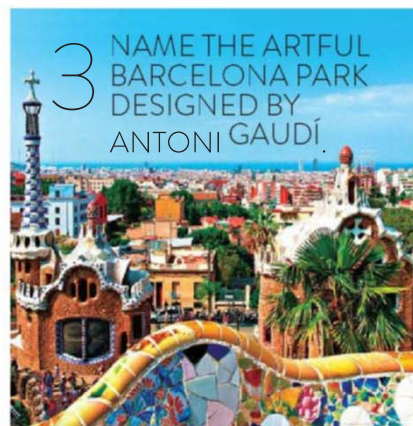
Test Your Travel IQ

By GEORGE W. STONE



1 AT -69.7°F, THE LOWEST-EVER TEMPERATURE IN THE CONTIGUOUS U.S. WAS RECORDED AT ROGERS PASS IN WHAT STATE?

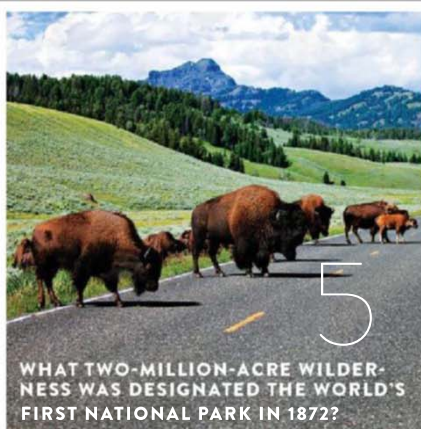
2 THE WORLD'S LARGEST MUSEUM DEDICATED TO A SINGLE ARTIST IS LOCATED IN PITTSBURGH. NAME IT.



3 NAME THE ARTFUL BARCELONA PARK DESIGNED BY ANTONI GAUDÍ



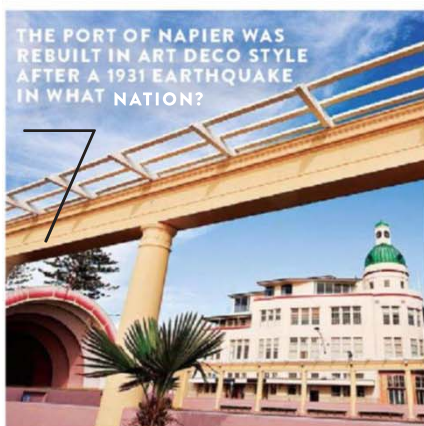
4 WHAT COUNTRY IS THE BIGGEST EXPORTER OF HONEY?



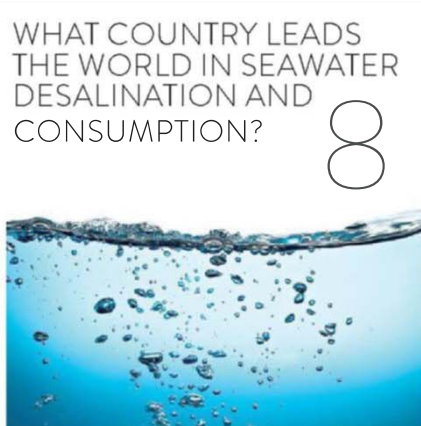
5 WHAT TWO-MILLION-ACRE WILDERNESS WAS DESIGNATED THE WORLD'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK IN 1872?



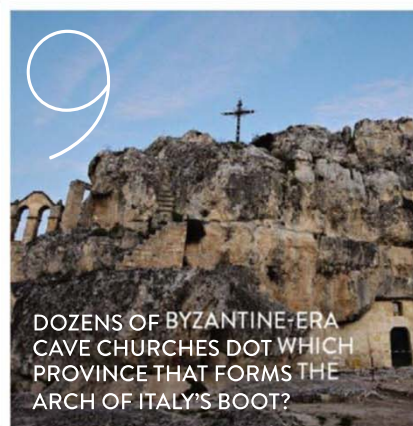
6 WHAT PINE TREE IS NAMED FOR ITS NATIVE ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA?



7 THE PORT OF NAPIER WAS REBUILT IN ART DECO STYLE AFTER A 1931 EARTHQUAKE IN WHAT NATION?



8 WHAT COUNTRY LEADS THE WORLD IN SEAWATER DESALINATION AND CONSUMPTION?



9 DOZENS OF BYZANTINE-ERA CAVE CHURCHES DOT WHICH PROVINCE THAT FORMS THE ARCH OF ITALY'S BOOT?

ANSWERS 1. Montana 2. Andy Warhol Museum 3. Park Güell 4. China 5. Yellowstone 6. Norfolk Island 7. New Zealand 8. Saudi Arabia 9. Matera

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